Dudley
CHRONICLE

Thursday, March 23, 2017 | Read by more than 62,000 people | Price when sold 70p

LAND SALES RAISE £8m AT COUNCIL

Report by Jamie Brassington

CASH-STRAPPED Dudley Council has made more than £8 million from selling off council-owned land over the last five years

The authority has sold off 42 plots since January 2013, which has earned council coffers a total sum of £8,311,289.

It comes as the authority has made a raft of cost-cutting measures to services and voted to raise council tax, following a significant fall in funding from central government.

Council bosses said land has been sold off to make 'millions of pounds of savings' but strict regulations govern how the council can spend the money.

Opposition leaders felt the Labour-led council had taken too long to sell off land and warned that the local authority should be careful over which sites it sells.

The plots of land have made way for housing and business developments. They were listed as 'surplus' by the council and included offices, residential properties, a care home and a car park.

The figures have been revealed following a Freedom Of Information request.

The most expensive property sold off was the former Cradley High School, on Benjamin Drive in Halesowen, which fetched £1,313,500. It made way for a £16.2m retirement village, called Lime Gardens, which consists of 120 homes and leisure facilities.

Demolished

Shenstone Care Home, in Kent Road, Halesowen, was sold off for £1m. It was demolished to make way for a new care home which cost £5m to develop.

Councillor Patrick Harley, leader of the Conservative group, said: "Dudley Council is the biggest land owner in the borough. Some of the land the authority owns has been left to rack and ruin close to 10 years. If any land is surplus to requirements, then the council should not hold onto them. I feel they are not quick enough to sell land off."

Councillor Paul Brothwood, leader of the UKIP group, said the authority should use empty council buildings for its services, rather than 'selling off council assets' and paying rents to the private sector.

He added: "We also need to ensure that we are careful when selling off land. It's like family silverware – once it's gone it's gone."

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "By releasing those buildings that are surplus to requirements, we are able to save on day-to-day running costs, maintenance, security and upkeep. The capital receipt monies are ring-fenced to help improve the remaining buildings. The relocation of services will secure future revenue savings."

NORTH PRIORY COMMUNITY CENTRE NEARLY READY

Site manager Andy Eccles with Ken Johnson and Sally Johnson, from the tenants and residents association with Councillor Ken Finch

A LONG-AWAITED new community centre in Dudley, which has cost around £800,000 to build, could be opened to the public by the summer.

Work on the North Priory Community Centre, on Priory Road, is largely complete with the walls and roof in place and just finishing touches required in and around the structure.

Ward councillors have campaigned for the last eight years to get the centre built after the previous community building, located on Pine Road, was demolished.

Castle and Priory ward Councillor Alan Finch said: "It is fantastic what we have achieved, to get the new centre built. We have had to jump through all the hoops that the local authority asked us to go through.

"It has cost around £800,000 to build and we expect it to open around June and July time. The community deserve this new centre. They have been waiting a long time."

The new centre will be able to accommodate social events, such as weddings and birthday parties. It will also provide facilities for those who use the nearby sports pitches, including new changing rooms.

Councillor Finch has campaigned for the new centre alongside ward councillors Ken Finch and Margaret Aston.

He added: "We are all over the moon."

CRIME

Police swoop over charity shop raids

DOZENS of police officers launched early-morning raids on a suspected gang of thieves that has targeted charity shops and firms around the region in burglaries totalling £500,000.

Officers used battering rams on Monday to enter properties to arrest suspects on suspicion of conspiracy to burgle, after shops and factories were hit in Dudley, Wolverhampton, Walsall and in Staffordshire.

Six addresses were raided as part of the police fightback against the gang, linked to 67 burglaries. Five men were arrested.

INVESTMENT

New hotel is set to create 20 jobs

TRAVELODGE has announced it will be opening 15 new hotels this year – including its second in Dudley.

The 78-room Birmingham Dudley Tipton Travelodge will open later this year at Discovery Way on Tipton Road.

A spokesman said: "The new purpose built hotel represents an investment of £6 million and will create 20 jobs within the community."

The chain's other hotel in the borough is the Dudley Travelodge in Brierley Hill.

RETAIL

Empty shops on the decrease in borough

THE rate of empty shops in Dudley has dropped, new figures have revealed.

The Local Data Company has released a report on retail vacancy rates in the UK's 650 town centres.

In Dudley, 17.7 per cent of the borough's 356 stores were empty in 2016. This improved from 20.1 per cent recorded in the first half of 2016.

In the West Midlands, Walsall was worst with 22.8 per cent of shops empty. In West Bromwich 22.2 per cent of stores were vacant. However, Hednesford only has a 6.4 per cent vacancy rate.

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Shed fraudster is facing prison term

Steven Corbett – convicted

A FRAUDSTER took thousands of pounds for garden sheds he failed to supply if facing a probable jail sentence.

Steven Corbett, of Tack Farm Road, Stourbridge, made the bogus sales via online site eBay, taking money from customers upfront. Individual payments were as large as £2,090 and it is thought he received more than £22,500 from the scam.

Trading standards officers were alerted to the 37-year-old's racket after complaints were made.

Corbett leaded guilty to ten counts of fraud by false representation, where the loss totalled £8,300, at Wolverhampton Magistrates Court on Thursday. He was committed to the city's crown court for sentence and told by magistrates he could face a lengthy period behind bars.

Mr David Elliott, prosecuting, said trading standards believed there had been 25 customers conned by Corbett. He first came to their attention in April 2015 and in July officers visited his business, Pine Sheds, at The Factory Centre, Woods Lane, Cradley Heath.

His answers to inquiries at that stage convinced trading standards it was merely a failing business. Mr Elliott said: "Corbett told them he had experienced 'cash flow' problems and was not in a position to give refunds."

Corbett told the officer he was no longer taking orders and was working to fulfil those outstanding. But by September the number of complainants against him had increased from four to 22.

There was a further visit to the firm's premises and the site manager told officers Corbett had not been seen there for two months.

Corbett was granted unconditional bail to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on April 18.

Arrest after attack on security guard, 73

A MAN has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder after a security guard was attacked at a Brierley Hill factory.

The guard, aged 73, was assaulted at Stoke Forgings, a metal factory in Vine Street, at around 1pm on Sunday.

Police believe the guard was hit numerous times during a 'prolonged attack lasting around 15 minutes'. They believe he was beaten with a shovel.

A 44-year-old man, of no fixed address, was arrested at around 1am on Tuesday in the Holly Hall area of Dudley. He remains in police custody helping detectives with their inquiries.

Detective Inspector Colin Mattinson from Force CID said: "The security guard was left with serious head injuries and remains in a critical condition in hospital.

"Enquiries are on-going and I would ask anyone who saw anything in the Vine Street area on Sunday or anyone who has knowledge of this attack to call us as soon as possible on 101 or call Crimestoppers confidentially on 0800 555 111."

The guard was discovered by a colleague starting work at around 7pm.

As The Chronicle went to press he remained in a critical condition in hospital.

The main entrance to the factory site has an electronic gate and is surrounded by walls and railings.

There are notices on the walls that the site is monitored and patrolled by security officers.

Challenged

Detective Inspector Colin Mattinson from Force CID said: "This was a sustained and violent attack on an elderly man.

"We believe he challenged a man found inside the premises, which led to the unprovoked attack taking place.

"Inquiries are continuing and we are studying CCTV and carrying our forensic investigations at the scene. We are still trying to establish what the man was doing inside the premises and what, if anything, was stolen."

A resident living near the factory, who did not want to be named, said: "It is terrible what they did to that poor man. He was just doing his job. At his age he was very brave to tackle whoever it was."

Cancer care nets memorial donation

Paul Coley and Ron Wakeman, friends of the late Cyril Cartwright, with fundraising manager Karen Phillips

DONATIONS in memory of a devoted supporter of the non-league football scene have helped a club and a hospital.

Around £900 each was given to Russells Hall Hospital and Lye Town Football Club on behalf of Cyril Cartwright, who died in February 2016, aged 87, after a short illness.

He had devoted his life to the support of amateur football in the Black Country.

One of his roles was to run the Dudley Metro Cups Competition, which also raised money for Black Country hospitals.

Paul Coley and Ron Wakeman, both friends of Mr Cartwright, presented the cheque to the Cancer Appeal at Russells Hall Hospital last week.

Karen Phillips, fundraiser manager at the hospital, said: "This donation is incredibly special to us in memory of Mr Cartwright. He had a big affiliation with the hospital, helping and supporting us. "

She added: "Cyril suffered frequent illness during his final years and always spoke in glowing terms of the care he received from Russells Hall."

The Dudley Metro Cups Competition involved many Black Country teams, including Dunns Bank, Dudley Wood Athletic, Kinver and Mr Cartwright's beloved Quarry Bank Celtic. Since 1992 almost £15,000 has been donated to hospitals from the competitions, and the fundraising started in the 1950s.

Police selling criminals' valuables for thousands

VALUABLE Watches seized from crooks and sold at a Dudley auction house have sold for a total of more than £30,000.

Rolex, Cartier and Breitling wristwatches seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act and Police Property Act have fetched thousands at the West Midlands Police auctions at Aston's over recent years.

Chris Aston, of the Tower Street-based auctioneers, said: "These West Midlands Police auctions are the most exciting auctions we hold with the biggest variety of items on offer. They certainly make a change from the traditional antique auctions.

"The best part for both ourselves and the bidders is the fact that all of the items are sold 'without reserve' so items start off very low, attracting plenty of bids."

The money made from the sales goes into the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner's £1 million Active Citizens Fund, which supports good causes around the region.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, David Jamieson said: "These tainted trinkets are the result of people's suffering, criminals preyed on victims to earn their dirty money.

"This auction sends a strong message that crime doesn't pay and justice catches up with criminals in the end."

Amongst the the star sellers have been a Rolex Oyster Perpetual Yacht-Master, which sold for £8,640, a Rolex Submariner worth over £6,000 and a heavy 9ct belcher link chain at £2,300.

iPads stolen in a raid on school

A SCHOOL was broken into and had 29 iPads stolen. Police are appealing for information after Olive Hill Primary School, in Springfield Road, Halesowen, was targeted by raiders.

A statement issued in the school newsletter reads: "The school is fully insured, however, this is unlikely to cover the full cost of replacing the devices. Unfortunately, the money we will need to spend to replace the devices can not now be spent on other resources for the children."

A West Midlands Police spokesperson said: "Police were called to reports of a burglary at Olive Hill School between 2.25 and 2.55am on Friday, March 10. A number of iPads were stolen. Aanyone with information is asked to call police on 101."

Coach company has sets up new base

A COACH firm has relocated its Black Country company HQ to new premises in Dudley.

Dunwood Travel, a coach tour operator specialising in holidays for the over-50s, has now moved to a new site at Pear Tree Lane, Dudley.

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Young driver may have fallen asleep at the wheel

A TEENAGER who died when his car hit a tree and burst into flames may have fallen asleep at the wheel, an inquest heart.

Jack de Bell was travelling along a commuter route between the Black Country and Telford, the B4176 in the direction of Sutton Maddock, on December 3 when his silver Ford Fiesta left the road and struck an oak tree.

Mr John Ellery, the senior coroner for Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin heard it was possible that the 18-year-old had fallen asleep at the wheel as he made his way to work.

At the inquest at Shrewsbury's Shirehall, collision investigator Pc Nick Stafford said that there had been no apparent reason for the crash and no defects with the car.

Mr Ellery was told that Jack, from Kinver, had gone to bed at around 12.30am and had woken to go to work at around 3.45am. The accident happened at around 4.30am.

Jack's parents suggested he could have fallen asleep at the wheel. A post mortem was carried out and gave a medical cause of death as multiple injuries.

Mr Ellery concluded that Jack, a former Kinver High School student, died as a result of a road traffic collision.

He said: "We do not know how or why the collision occurred. There is no evidence that this was a deliberate act. However, tt is certainly possible he fell asleep at the wheel, which unfortunately took the life of this industrious young man."

Libraries offering map print service

MAPS can now be printed at libraries in Dudley borough.

Dudley Council has introduced the service to make it easier for people to produce the correct documentation when submitting planning applications.

The service will be available during regular opening hours at Dudley Library, Halesowen Library, Stourbridge Library and The Archives Local History Centre on Tipton Road.

Prices start at £9 for A4 or £20 for A3, which includes six printed copies. It can also be emailed or printed at home.

Councillor Rachel Harris said: "It is part of our continued drive to adapt the services we offer at our librariesin response to public demand."

Having a laugh on Red Nose Day

LAUGHTER Yoga sessions will be held at Dudley Leisure Centre to raise funds for Comic Relief during Red Nose Day tomorrow (Friday), with 45-minute sessions at noon and 1pm at the Wellington Road venue.

Romanian jewel thieves put behind bars

Vasile Cardos – jailed

A MAN from Rowley Regis has been jailed for more than eight years for his role in Romanian criminal gang which bagged £3 million in jewellery shop raids across the country.

In 14 months the gang – believed to have been trained at a 'Romanian Crime Academy' – hit 11 stores. The used strategies including cordoning off roads with industrial cables to reduce witnesses, cycling to crime scenes and even starting fires to distract emergency services. They would base themselves in tents two to three miles away from the scenes of the crimes and even buried their waste to eliminate clues.

Among the gang was Vasile Daniel Cardos, aged 26, from Halesowen Street in Rowley Regis, who has been sentenced to eight years and two months behind bars for conspiracy to commit burglaries.

Four others, of no fixed address, were handed the same punishment – Bogdan Costel Neagu, aged 24, Ioan Bucuresteanu, 24, Silvu Ioan Acatrinei, 20, and Andrei Florin Tifui, 28.

Meanwhile, Ioachim Karp, 19, of no fixed address, was sentenced to six years and six months for aggravated burglary and conspiracy. A further man is due to be sentenced on March 28.

Detective Chief Inspector Ricky Fields, from Staffordshire Police, said: "We're dealing with a group of individuals who are extremely organised and forensically aware. They went to great lengths in an attempt to avoid detection.

"The group could be linked to the 'crime academy' in Romania as several of the members came from the same region. The crime academy provides a strict code for its members as well as training in numerous techniques."

The gang targeted Beaverbrooks, Fraser Hart and Goldsmiths chains as well as independent traders.

Trampoline park set to bounce in with 33 jobs

A NEW trampoline park could be bouncing into Dudley as plans are in the pipeline for one of the popular leisure attractions to be created at a former warehouse site.

The proposed complex, which has been proposed for the site in Birmingham Road, would create 33 jobs and have space to accommodate up to 60 people on trampolines at any one time.

Ward councillors have welcomed the move, saying it would help attract more people to the area.

The site is located opposite the large Tesco store, off the Birmingham New Road.

Leap Dudley Limited is seeking to convert the former warehouse to a trampoline park and community hub.

Councillor Shaukat Ali, a representative of St Thomas's ward, said: "Trampolining seems to be the 'in' thing at the moment, so I welcome the plans.

"Any business where new jobs can be created will be good for the area. I hope the owners are successful with the project."

Alongside the trampolines, the facility also plans to feature a community information hub, a restaurant focusing on healthy eating, a soft play area for toddlers and a sensory room.

The application will be put forward to planning bosses at Dudley Council.

Applicants Leap Dudley have also applied for the new leisure facility to have 70 car parking spaces.

Fit

A report submitted to the council, on behalf of the applicants, states: "Over the last 30 years the applicant has had the good fortune to have worked in the private, public and third sector organisations, giving them a good insight into what sectors have to offer for various sections of our community. It is, with this in mind, that they will be looking to draw on a quite extensive database of contacts.

"We believe that all ages would be able to take part in the fun, active and aerobic-type exercises that will help them keep fit whilst having fun, socialising but all in an environment that is safe, welcoming, fun and promotes healthy living across the board."

The trampoline park would also accommodate tennis and badminton facilities.

A hole lot of bother at the roadworks in Cradley Heath High Street when this Audi car crashed into a ditch and landed on top of the gas mains

Car was ditched on mains gas pipe

A MOTORIST involved in a late night crash literally ditched the car after careering into town centre roadworks at Cradley Heath.

Emergency services arrived to find the abandoned car in the hole, wedged next to the gas mains. There was no sign of the driver.

The dark blue Audi had to be winched out by a recovery truck.

Cradley Heath High Street had been dug up as part of ongoing gas works in the road.

The occupants of the car had fled the scene, close to the Tesco Extra supermarket, before police officers arrived on Saturday at around 11.30pm.

Theresa Fields, who runs The Walk-in Wardrobe on High Street, said: "I suppose it puts us on the map again. I mean, it is amazing – I just can't work out how they've done that. It'll certainly cause a stir." Asid Iqbal, owner of of Cradley Heath Newsagents, said: "It's lucky they weren't seriously hurt. With the gas mains being there, it could have been much more serious."

The roadworks are due be completed by March 31.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Free 'bond with your bump' class

A FREE activity session encouraging pregnant mums to 'bond with their bumps' is being held Dudley Library tomorrow (Friday).

Parents-to-be have been invited to 'Bump, Baby and Beyond' from 11am to 2pm.

The event aims to help mums communicate with their imminent new arrivals through the medium of talking, rhyming and reading.

Charities, businesses and organisations will also showcase their services. The session is free and there is no need to book for the event.

Actors' first steps into the limelight

YOUNG actors from a Stourbridge-based drama group will be making stage debuts next month.

Twenty members of Dramaworkshop, founded and directed by professional actress Esther Stanford, will take centre stage at Netherton Arts Centre on April 2 in productions of The Mobile Phone Show and Blood Brothers.

It will be the first acting experience in front of a live audience for some of the cast

Tickets can be bought from www.ticketsource.co.uk or on 07588 454083.

Posh frocks night in aid of hospice

NEW and nearly new wedding and prom dresses will be sold to raise money for Mary Stevens Hospice.

The charity regularly receives donations from boutiques and shops that are clearing stock.

Now the dresses and other items will be sold to raise money for the charity at Cradley Heath Liberal Club on Upper High Street from 5pm on Tuesday.

Designer dresses and outfits will start from £25.

Ladies Day comedy is society's latest play

DETAILS for a drama society's next show have been announced.

Enville Street Dramatic Society's production of Amanda Whittington's comedy Ladies Day will be held at Amblecote Holy Trinity Church Hall from April 5 to 8. For tickets to the show, call 01384 376342 or 07857543846.

The society was founded in 1947 as the social arm of Enville Street Methodist Church in Stourbridge, and have staged more than 130 plays. Visit www.envillestreetdramatic.org.uk

Man injured in crash

A MAN was seriously injured when a car hit a telegraph pole in Dudley at 5am on Sunday. Another three people suffered minor injuries in the accident involving a black Fiesta in Halesowen Road. The road remained closed until around noon and police ask anyone with information to call 101.

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COUNTY NEWS

Volunteers sought for canal clear-up

VOLUNTEERS are being sought over the first weekend of April, to clean up the canals of the West Midlands.

Waterway Recovery Group volunteers will be working from Wednesfield on the Wyrley and Essington Canal to Horseley Fields Junction up to Wolverhampton locks and then down to the Bradley Arm up to the workshop. Last year 70 volunteers spent two days removing 44 tonnes of rubbish from Walsall Canal.

Contact Chris Morgan on 07974 111 354 or email cbmorgan@sky.com for more information.

HS2 hub hopes for 77,000 jobs

AN ambitious 20-year growth plan based on the arrival of HS2 in the West Midlands could create up to 77,500 jobs, it has been claimed.

The plan for the UK Central Hub – which takes in Solihull, Birmingham Airport, the NEC, Jaguar Land Rover and the proposed new HS2 Interchange Station – was unveiled last week at the MIPIM international property show in Cannes.

Supporters say it could add £4.1 billion to the local economy, taking in 775,000 sq m of development land and provide space for up to 4,000 homes.

Third of farmers hit by dumping

MORE than a third of farming businesses in the West Midlands and Staffordshire claim to have had illegal waste dumped on their land in the last three years, research shows.

An awareness campaign has been launched in the affected communities who are largely unaware that they are open to fines, prosecution and even imprisonment due to ignorance of the 'duty of care' law. A new survey commissioned by 'right Waste, right Place' shows owners are increasingly turning to councils for help.

Folk festival to feed fans' imagination

THE Imagined Isle folk festival is back in Birmingham Town Hall from May 12 to 14, featuring acts such as Dan Walshon Friday.

Saturday includes folk legends Fairport Convention's 50th anniversary tour concert with support from Benji Kirkpatrick at 7.30pm. The Sunday sees a concert from former Bellowhead singer Jon Boden at 2.30pm.

Tickets are available for the individual concerts or for the weekend at £58 from the box office on 0121 780 3333.

Scientific schools

FIFTY-EIGHT schools from across the West Midlands took part in Demo Day, which enabled pupils to take part in science activities, with practical hands-on science demonstrations.

Last Thursday's event was organised by the British Science Association (BSA) as part of British Science Week.

Father-to-be back to jail after car theft

A 22-year-old man who stole the car of a woman he had spent the night with looks set to spend the rest of the year in jail – while his girlfriend is expecting their first baby.

Jamie Edmunds, of Shirley Road, Dudley, was caught driving the Fiat 500 he had taken without consent in Cradley Heath on March 5. He was out on licence for dangerous driving, which means he has been recalled to serve the remainder of his sentence. Edmunds was handed a further 24 weeks in custody for taking the car.

Prosecutor Roger Blezzard said: "He met someone in a pub on March 4. They drank together and then he went back to her place and spent the night. Next morning she notices her car and the keys have gone."

Officers saw him driving on South Bank Road and identified him as a disqualified driver. When he was detained a small quantity of cannabis was found on his person.

He had previously been convicted of dangerous driving, disqualified for two years and given a custodial sentence.

Defending Edmunds, Mrs Dawn Foxhall, said: "He is very ashamed of his behaviour. He is in a stable relationship and discovered that he is going to be a father for the first time. He had a job but now is back to square one. He is going to miss out on a lot of firsts but he knows that he only has himself to blame."

Edmunds was given eight weeks concurrent for driving whilst disqualified but no separate penalties for no insurance and the cannabis. He must pay £115 victim surcharge and got a further 12 month driving ban.

Schoolboy rock star returns to classroom

By Judith Hawkins

SCHOOLBOY Harry Egerton was given a true rock-star reception by his classmates when he returned to school after a stint on the West End stage.

Twelve-year-old Harry Egerton has just returned to his Halesowen home after six months living in London with fellow cast members in Andrew Lloyd Webber's School of Rock The Musical.

Now Harry is back focusing on his schoolwork at The Earls High School, but found time to show off his new-found skills in the classroom.

Mother Julie praised the school for their support, and for ensuring he was able to keep up with his classmates by sending work via a dedicated tutor at the 'School of Rock' house.

Harry is still reeling from the life-changing role, which has cemented his desire for a lifelong acting career.

He said: "It is the best feeling, and to get that every single night. I know I want to keep on doing this for the rest of my life. It has been unbelievable, getting to perform every single day. And to get to live with the people you are performing with. That has been one of the most fun things."

Harry admits he has enjoyed 'rocking out' and is a keen musician himself having played the keyboard since he was five.

ELO

Ahead of securing the West End role as a roadie in the musical, Harry's talents were developed by teacher James Gullick from Dudley Performing Arts and the late Chris Groucutt, son of ELO's Kelly Groucutt, who helped Harry with his guitar playing.

Julie added: "I'm really proud. It was hard him being away from home in London, but it was such a big opportunity and he really enjoyed it."

It is not Harry's first time in the limelight. He had a part in Footloose The Musical at The New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham, appeared in CBBC's All Over The Workplace and in the world's biggest panto, at The Barclaycard Arena with Paul O'Grady.

Harry Egerton, age 12, is back with classmates at Earls High after appearing in hit West End musical School of Rock

Harry, bottom left, with the school's West End cast

Jack Black in the movie version of School of Rock

Husband is stabbed by wife during drunken row

A MOTHER-OF-TWO who stabbed her husband during a drunken row has been given a suspended sentence.

Tracey and Jason Fellows had both been drinking heavily and when the 46-year-old saw her husband coming at her clutching a vodka bottle she grabbed a knife and plunged it into his arm.

Wolverhampton Crown Court was told that one of the children heard the commotion and called 999.

Mr Nicholas Smith, prosecuting, said police found blood smeared on a wall and the husband with a stab wound. He was taken to hospital where the wound was stitched"

Mr Smith explained: "They were both heavily intoxicated. He came at her in an aggressive manner. Fearing for her safety, she stabbed him."

The court heard that her husband had not been prepared to support the prosecution.

Mr Simon Hanns, defending, said the couple had been arguing throughout the day before the violence in the early hours of May 30. He added: "The children did not need to see this unedifying spectacle from their parents but it was a single blow and there is some evidence of remorse."

Hospital canteen worker Fellows, from Bankwell Street, Brierley Hill, who had a previous conviction for assaulting a police officer, admitted wounding. She was given a 12-month prison term suspended for 18 months with 100 hours unpaid work and ordered to pay £500 costs.

Arrest after gun produced in bank

A 60-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of holding a bank worker at gunpoint in Birmingham.

West Midlands Police was alerted just before 11.45am on Friday to a man holding a female staff member hostage in an interview room at the NatWest in Bristol Road South, Northfield.

It is understood he produced a firearm from a bag but no threats or demands for money were made and no-one was injured.

Officers, including armed police, contained the building and negotiators were sent to the scene. The man, who is believed to be from the local area and a customer at the branch, left the bank and surrendered to police at around 12.50pm. He was taken to hospital for assessment.

Former council offices attacked by arsonists

ARSONISTS targeted a derelict office building in Sedgley, forcing a road closure. West Midlands Fire Service was called to the former Dudley Council building in Bilston Stree. The blaze sent large plumes of smoke into the air.

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Thieves have struck at scene of a fatal fire

BURGLARS have struck at a home being renovated after a fatal house fire in a village near Stourbridge.

Grandfather-of-four Colin Dunn was overcome when went to investigate smoke from his garage 'man cave' on Six Ashes Road in Bobbington on November 13 last year.

After the tragic blaze caused extensive damage, the property has been under renovation and Mr Dunn's wife has not been able to move back into the house during the work.

But callous burglars targeted the property between 4pm on March 9 and 9am on March 13.

Police says the burglary has deeply distressed and affected Mrs Dunn. The offenders stole Sony and Samsung televisions and a Seiko watch with a brown leather strap . The watch has sentimental value for Mrs Dunn as it was a gift.

PC Miles Dolan, of South Staffordshire local policing team, said: "I have seen the impact first hand of this tragic incident, and the loss for Mrs Dunn. To have this burglary happen now has impacted on her to such an extent that she is now reconsidering moving back in."

At 72-year-old Mr Dunn's inquest the coroner heard how he had been out celebrating his granddaughter's birthday on the afternoon of November 13 last year. Later that day he smoked a cigarette in the garage, described as his 'man cave', which fire investigators believe was not put out properly, leading to the blaze that ultimately claimed his life.

Inquest on burns victim adjourned

AN INQUEST has opened on a woman found dead in an alleyway following a fire.

Saiqa Bi, aged 31, was pronounced dead at the scene in Clyde Street, Old Hill, on March 4.

The fire had been 'self set after she had used an accelerant', Black Country Coroners Court heard. The cause of death given was fatal burns.

Russ Williams, senior coroner's officer, said: "Police, fire and ambulances attended the scene where it appeared that Miss Bi, who was a marketing manager, had died from injuries incurred from a self- set fire after she had used an accelerant."

Police are not treating the death as suspicious. The inquest was adjourned until May 3.

Deadline to save gas showroom

THE Black Country Living Museum has just a few weeks to secure funding to save an historic building. Heritage Lottery Funding is needed to remove the 1940s Gas Showroom in West Bromwich and rebuild it at the museum.

Revamp aims to bring in new shops

Birdcage Walk in Dudley during its heyday

PART of Dudley town centre that has seen better days is being lined up for a revamp to help fill empty shops and breathe new life into the area.

The vision for Birdcage Walk, and other streets near the bus station, include redesigning outdated shop frontages and demolishing the former Co-op which has been empty for more than two years.

Birdcage Walk could see a new covered arcade and a possible expansion of shop fronts as chiefs say they want the blueprint to make Dudley 'the best it can be.'

A council report says provisional planning ideas for shop units include , food and drink, financial and professional services.

The Dudley Area Action Plan states: "Within the Birdcage Walk area additional retail floorspace could be delivered by the possible creation of a covered arcade or redesign of existing frontages to create a better shopping experience.

"The former Co-op unit in Fisher Street could be incorporated in a renewal scheme with the building demolished. This will provide an opportunity to create new frontages to Birdcage Walk, Birmingham Street and Fisher Street. Possible extension or frontage enhancement in respect of the Birdcage Walk shops could enhance their viability and vitality."

The area is owned and managed by London & Cambridge Properties Ltd (LCP).

The move comes after chiefs revealed a major £9 million revamp of Dudley bus station, which will see it linked to an extension of the Midland Metro, which could bring more shoppers and tourists.

Nursery death threats caused 'panic and alarm'

A WOMAN who caused 'panic and alarm' when she called nurseries across the West Midlands threatening to arrive with knives and guns and 'kill everyone' has been given a suspended prison sentence.

Terrified staff gathered children indoors, locking windows and doors while they waited for police to arrive, Birmingham Magistrates Court heard.

Eight malicious calls were made by Rebecca Cooper, of Park Hill Street, The Buffery, Dudley, on Wednesday.

The nurseries affected were picked at random by the 22-year-old who told police she wanted 'to cause as much upset as possible and frighten people'.

Among those targeted was Fairytale Day Nursery in Dudley, The Stanmore Day Nursery in Edgbaston, ABC Nursery in Coventry and Sunrise Day Nursery in Sutton Coldfield.

Prosecutor, Mr Peter Lawn, said Cooper attempted to disguise her voice, pretended to be in a gang and said she was going to go with weapons, including knives and guns, and kill everyone.

He said: "This caused extreme panic and alarm."

Abusive

Cooper told police she did not know what she would have done had she not been arrested.

The court heard Cooper had a history of similar offences, including making abusive calls to 999 operators.

Mr Antony Schiller, defending, told the court that Cooper, who suffers from Asperger's, had been before the court on 64 occasions.

He said: "When she loses self-control for whatever reason, she will either phone or send letters of an offensive nature. When she is angry or low she will randomly phone people and rant."

She had never carried through her threats.

Mr Schiller added: "This is a cry for help, she is asking society to help her because she is not getting help otherwise. This is a young lady on a rapidly downward spiral."

Cooper was sentenced to 24 weeks in prison suspended for two years and must pay £165 court costs. She admitted making eight menacing phone calls and racially aggravating a police officer. She also admitted sending a distressing text to a woman in October and being in breach of an 18-month conditional discharge.

Pub of the year for eighth time

Manager Alex Marchant and Dudley & South Staffs CAMRA Chairman Ryan Hunt at the Beacon Hotel

A SEDGLEY landmark has been named Dudley's pub of the year – for the eighth time.

The Beacon Hotel in Sedgley has been awarded the accolade of best pub in Dudley and South Staffordshire by the Campaign for Real Ale.

The award, presented at the Bilston Street hotel last week, means that the venue is now in the running for the national pub of the year title.

Owner John Hughes said: "It's a great feeling that we have the support from CAMRA members and customers. They clearly still enjoy the atmosphere and the quality of beer we produce.

"I'd like to thank all of the staff for all their hard work and dedication and a big thank you to all of the customers and CAMRA members who support and voted for The Beacon Hotel. It's great news for both us and the community."

The pub's own ale, the renowned Ruby Mild, was named West Midland Champion Beer of the Year in January. The six per cent ale is one of the strongest milds in the country and is pulled around 2,000 times a week at the pub.

Dudley and South Staffs CAMRA branch chairman Ryan Hunt made the presentation to general manager Alex Marchant last Wednesday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Apartments plan at former chapel

A FORMER chapel in Netherton will be turned into apartments, under plans which have been unveiled.

Built in 1810, the Old Chapel in St Giles Street was used by Champions Church until 2010 when it moved to a new building in Cinder Bank.

Now, after selling at auction last year for £132,000, the former church looks set to be converted into nine apartments.

A planning application submitted by Architectural Services & Development Consultants has been received by Dudley Council.

Free trip to zoo to join celebrations

DUDLEY Zoo is looking forward to welcoming back more than 4,600 visitors for free.

The Castle Hill attraction handed out return tickets to all full-paying visitors during the first two months of the year, allowing them to come back and visit the zoo for free up until July 31, as part of its 80th birthday celebrations.

A potential total of 4,626 visitors could be welcomed back. To redeem the free return offer, which isn't valid on bank holidays, visitors will need their receipt and voucher.

Join quiz night for mayor's charities

A FORMER Mayor of Dudley is organising a quiz night to raise funds for his successor's charities.

The event for teams of four to six is being held at the DY1 venue in High Street, Dudley, on April 25.

Councillor Steve Waltho and his wife Jayne are urging people to enter teams. Entry £5 is per person and the evening will include a 'chip buttie' supper.

To book email jayne.waltho@hotmail.com or call 07855 813689.

Star soprano joining Songsters in concert

THE Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir are bringing their spring concert to Dudley Town Hall on Saturday.

The choir's special guest is soprano Laura Wright, who has sold more than a million albums. She will be joining the Songsters on stage.

Funds raised will go to the Mayor of Dudley's charities and the Access in Dudley charity. Tickets are from £15 for the 7.30pm concert. For tickets see www.gsmvc.org.uk, email gsmvchoir@gmail.com or call 01746 763850.

Hot tunes in matinee

SHOW band Too Darn Hot will be performing a matinee concert in Dudley Town Hall in May.

The band will play be performing songs from top musicals in The Wonderful West End on Tuesday, May 16, at 2pm. Tickets cost £12, on sale from the box office on (01384) 812812.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

What a fuss we all know we are the greater one

THERE has been a bit of a fuss about the Black Country being marketed as "Greater Birmingham" over at the annual regeneration jolly in the South of France.

While I normally recoil at any attempt to associate the Black Country with our noisy neighbours down the M6, on this occasion I think people are being a little bit harsh.

There's probably an innocent explanation. Indeed, I think it might be nothing more sinister than a simple typing error.

They meant to say Greater THAN Birmingham.

❒❒❒

IN September 2013, Nicola Sturgeon told Scottish people to seize the "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity" and vote for separation from the UK in the following year's referendum.

Now she is demanding another vote.

Look, I know life expectancy isn't what it should be north up there, but I think three-and-a-half years is pushing it a bit, don't you?

❒❒❒

TERRIBLE news from down-under. Apparently, unless a new deal can be struck with Channel 5, Neighbours could finally come to an end in the UK after 31 years. Now be honest, how many of you actually knew it was still going?

❒❒❒

IMAGINE for one moment you worked at the London Evening Standard. Not a pleasant thought, I admit, having to live down in the Big Black Smoke, but work with me on this one.

Having given your all for a few decades, you have worked your way up the ladder, and then the vacancy for the editor appears – and is given to somebody with next to no experience of the industry, has no formal journalistic qualifications, but who used to be Chancellor of the Exchequer. That will be good for morale.

Frankly, I couldn't care less how many jobs George Osborne has. Being a backbench MP should never be anything more than a part-time job, and paid accordingly. It is the rise of the full-time MP that has created a generation of meddling career politicians with no experience of life outside Westminster.

What is ridiculous though is the way somebody so demonstrably under-qualified can walk straight out of Downing Street into such a difficult and demanding role.

The suspicion is that he won't really be editor at all, simply using the paper as a political platform while other, better qualified people actually do the work.

Still, for politicians wanting to bring those pesky newspapers to heel, there are worse ways than getting a few of your own in to run them. I bet Leveson wished he had thought of that.

It's the wealthy who objected to Hammond NI rises

Philip Hammond – humiliating U-turn was 'necessary to maintain voters' trust'

Judge Lindsey Kushner – only saying what a normal, loving parent would say

Nigel Farage – a blistering feud with the party's only MP Douglas Carswell

White Van Man – I don't think so

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

WAS anyone convinced, on Budget day, that the raging fury over the Budget was the authentic voice of White Van Man, roused to rebellion at the prospect of higher National Insurance payments? No, me neither. It all happened far too quickly. MPs simply didn't have time to consult their white-van supporters, even assuming they know any. But then we shouldn't assume that all self-employed folk are horny-handed sons of toil, nor that Chancellor Philip Hammond's U-turn in scrapping the NI rises will be celebrated in back-street pubs with pints of mild and a bag of crisps for the whippet. The term "self-employed" covers some extremely wealthy, well-connected and influential types, such as barristers, Fleet Street columnists and broadcasters who did not take kindly to Hammond's rises. History will record that this was a rebellion among white collars, not white vans.

I BET we were all delighted to see the lorry owned by a pair of despicable fly-tippers in Hertfordshire being sent to the crusher. Pity the fly- tippers weren't inside.

WHAT is the point of the continued existence of UKIP, now that voters endorsed the concept of Brexit in the referendum last June? You might think they would quietly and happily disperse under the banner of 'mission accomplished'. But no. UKIP does not disperse and it certainly does not do anything quietly. At the moment, they are engaged in a bitter and savage civil war of self-destruction that makes the troubles in the Labour Party seem tame by comparison. UKIP's former leader Nigel Farage is having a blistering feud with the party's only MP, Popeye the Sailor Man lookalike Douglas Carswell, who is said to be inching back towards his former party the Tories again.

YOUR kids are going out into town for the night. You tell them to take care. Or at least you do if you are a normal, loving parent. And that's what Judge Lindsey Kushner was doing when she noted on her last day in court that women and girls who get blind drunk tend to be targeted by would-be rapists. If you believe all you see, the judge was widely condemned for 'victim-blaming'. But that's simply not true. I bet 90 per cent of the population thoroughly agree with her. What we saw in the media was a contrived and artificial controversy.

It was based on the views of a tiny number of campaigners and single-issue 'experts' who claim the judge's remarks may make women less likely to report rape. But Judge Kushner was desperately trying to prevent rapes happening in the first place, rather than picking up the pieces afterwards.

DOG walkers in wooded areas should stop using poo bags and adopt a "stick and flick" method, according to the Forestry Commission which has produced a poem to make the point: "If your dog should do a plop, take a while and make a stop / Just find a stick and flick it wide into the undergrowth at the side." I find myself also moved to verse, to point out the possible hazards of the new method: "Make sure that you've got lots of space / 'Cos stick-flicked **** goes all over the place."

PITY we didn't have a public naming competition for the Royal Navy's latest aircraft carrier which, as reported a few days ago, is overdue, over budget, understaffed and still waiting for its warplanes. HMS Whiteelephant McWhiteelephantface?

APPARENTLY we should all be more worried about nitrogen pollution than global warming. Yes, I know it's going to be hard after 20 years spent fretting about greenhouse gases but you don't want to be left behind in the anxiety stakes, do you? A charity called Plantlife claims air pollution caused by agriculture and engines is over-enriching our soil and encouraging the growth of "thuggish" plants such as nettles. Sorry to spoil the angst party but nettles are wonderful things. They are one of the most useful plants on the planet, rich in iron and vitamin C. You can eat them in salads, turn them into soup, brew them as tea or even turn them into nettle-yarn fabric. You could argue that an excess of nitrogen is giving us great bounty of a miracle crop. But that would be good news, and who wants that?

THE Scots were assured by their political leaders that the 2014 vote on independence from the UK would be a "once in a generation" referendum. They are now being told to expect another one in a year or so. This one will also be a "once in a generation" referendum – unless they vote the wrong way again.

HALF-watching the telly, I caught the Prime Minister telling the Commons about a "cattery trade delegation." I was heartened to think someone as busy as Mrs May could find time to chat with people providing holiday accommodation for cats. The delegation turned out to be Qatari.

MORE issues with the new £5 note. A reader writes: "Is it just me or does the new five-pound note have a life of its own?" He reports a problem with "escaping" fivers creeping out of his shirt pocket and wonders whether some curious reaction is going on between the polymers in the note and the polymers in the shirt material. Fascinating.

TALKING POINT

Attention! That's my Mother's Day wish

THERE is good news and bad news for my children as Mother's Day looms.

I do not want them to splash out on a bunch of flowers that will be considerably more expensive in the days before Mothering Sunday than at any other time of year with the exception, possibly, of Valentine's Day.

I do not want a novelty, twee gift such as a plaque or a vase with some motivational poem/message/logo on and I don't expect a huge and/or expensive card.

And I most certainly do not want to be wined and dined in an over-booked pub or restaurant. Inevitably tables are crammed together while the mass of increasingly bored children try to run around in the few gaps, adding to the wall of noise and the irritation that is already rising from the predictable wait as hordes of diners descend.

So that's the good news for my children. I am, if nothing else, a cheap date.

However, the bad news, they may think, is that I have to have their full, undivided attention for the day.

Despite the nauseating sentimentality and commercial hype today, Mother's Day was first celebrated in the UK in the 17th century which is long before America adopted it.

It began as Mothering Sunday and at a time when children were often sent away to work as servants or apprentices. It was considered important that children were allowed to visit their homes once a year. The time decided for the visit to home was the middle Sunday of the fasting period of Lent.

In these modern times, I consider myself lucky if I can pin my two teenagers down for one day a year – certainly when they are not busy staring at their hands – or rather the phones permanently in them!

Mother's Day, like Halloween or Valentine's Day, or even Christmas, is in danger of being swallowed up by the commercial opportunists. It has already been hyped up to such an extent that we just see it as another expense and more pressure to impress. Mother's Day doesn't even have the bonus of being a bank holiday.

Well I reject the hype – though that doesn't let my children totally off the hook.

On MY Mothering Sunday I want quality time with my children, I don't want to have to cook the dinner and I'd quite like the odd cuppa made for me too. I'd like to spend time chatting, maybe watch a film or take a walk, but most of all I want a relaxed day when none of us are rushing off or tied up.

Of course, Lent quickly leads into Easter and my children don't mind the hype if it means a great big calorific chocolate egg for them. So they might want to remember who gets that egg when planning my Mother's Day this year!

DIANE DAVIES

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Make prisoners pay for food and lodging

THERE is a crisis in elderly care. Our elders go into hospital to have treatment for their ailments. When they are ready to go out, because somelive on their own, they can't take care of themselves and thus stay in hospital taking up a bed when it is wanted for someone else.

Reason? Local authorities have been closing their care homes down because of the cuts that this Government has been imposing on them.

If an elderly person has to go into a care home, whether it be private or council-owned, and if they have a home that they own and money in the bank, then the house is sold and money taken until the person only has a small amount of money left. This person has saved all of their life and paid their taxes. A person who is on benefits doesn't have to pay anything apart from their pension if he or she has retired.

That is the system, in other words, through no fault of their own, they have to pay to be looked after in care homes.

So now look at our prison system. A person who has committed a crime and is found guilty and has to go to jail, he or she gets three meals a day and the best facilities regarding recreation. Whether the person has money or not, they don't have to pay a penny.

So why should they get away with free lodging? Like the elderly in care homes, why shouldn't anyone who goes to jail, and has money and assets, pay? The money could go towards funding for the care home s and ensure that the pressure is taken off the NHS bedding crisis.

BOB WHITEHOUSE
Kingswinford

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Code of Practice: Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can. The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at

Working the land after Brexit

JUST watched the news; one item mentioned farmers' concerns over a lack of seasonal workers from Europe because of Brexit.

Surely with our overflowing prisons and young offender institutions, those needing to perform community service and even people claiming long-term jobseekers allowance, there are enough potential workers to meet our agricultural needs?

Obviously I'm not talking about axe murderers and I appreciate that a level of supervision would be required, but the chance to learn new skills and provide a valuable contribution to society would be seized by some people, especially if they were paid.

My son was once on jobseekers allowance and would have accepted any work, but at no time during many fruitless, soul destroying visits to the job centre did we ever see any adverts for farm workers.

SUSAN CLARKE
Stourbridge

Diesel motorists get a rough deal

ONCE again the driver of the diesel is the target for more taxation. The modern diesel has EGR valves to re-circulate exhaust gases back into the engine for further burning and then a diesel particle filter within the exhaust system to capture and burn off soot resulting in lower emissions.

This Government will reduce our car values by thousands of pounds without compensation – then increase petrol prices further to compensate for their loss of revenue, as they did when they advised the public to go diesel.

They should target the buses and HGVs that belt out black smoke and spoil our roads, which have been re-surfaced. Take a look at Wolverhampton Street, Dudley, and Birmingham New Road; hundreds of thousands wasted. But hey – it's only the taxpayer's money.

MR G HULME
Dudley

I'm a victim of the bus lane sting

LIKE your correspondent Adrian Dring, I'm another victim of the great Wolverhampton 'bus lane sting'.

I drove my wife to the station to drop her off, as I normally do, but was met with a barrier across the road. I had no idea what to do at this point – there were no signs to assist.

She got out with her heavy suitcase just past the barrier and walked to the station, then I looked for a way out. I carried on driving and fell foul of the new bus lane restrictions in Victoria Square. On returning from holiday a nasty brown envelope awaited me containing a £30 fine (pay immediately or it'd be £60!).

I found it very difficult to find any information about where to drop people as an alternative. I did consider protesting but paid up like a good boy – the publicity of a letter might be more effective in highlighting the council's sharp practice.

MARTIN JONES
Sedgley

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Get Footloose with feel-good musical

Leaping for joy in rehearsals for Footloose is Jacob Kohli with fellow members of Bilston Operatic Youth Company

A VIBRANT slice of America is coming to the Black Country when the musical Footloose is performed next month.

The production by Bilston Operatic Youth Company, part of Bilston Operatic Company, will be staged at Dormston Mill Theatre in Sedgley.

It will run from April 4 for five nights at 7.30pm, plus a Saturday matinee on April 8.

The story follows Ren, a teenager from the city who leads a youth rebellion in a small town where the elders are enforcing a strict ban on dancing.

The musical is based on the 1984 movie with Kevin Bacon and Lori Singer, which was also remade in 2011.

The show features the hit songs Holding Out For A Hero, Let's Hear It For The Boy and the unforgettable title track.

This is the third production for the youth company, which now has 45 members after starting up only three years ago. The cast includes Jacob Kohli, 16, from Finchfield, in the lead role of Ren. Jacob recently received an award as a promising singer.

Company chairman Brenda Arnold said: "We chose Footloose because it was a good show for young people. It is very lively and a lot of fun for the members to get involved in."

All tickets are £15 and are available from members of Bilston Youth Company, via bilston-operatic.co.uk website or call 07798 792248

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It's wrong to close yet another pub, says MEP

CAMPAIGNERS have launched a last-ditch attempt to save a Lower Gornal from demolition.

The Fiddlers Arms could become the latest boozer to be lost to a supermarket in Dudley borough.

But more than 700 people have signed a petition in a bid to save the 19th century inn from the bulldozer.

Bill Etheridge

Pub owners NewRiver Retail submitted an application to Dudley Council in February to demolish the building and build a Co-op on the site.

It was the latest in several applications by NewRiver Retail to replace pubs or build on their car parks across the Black Country.

UKIP MEP Bill Etheridge, who is also a Dudley councillor for Sedgley, said demolishing the Fiddlers Arms would be 'totally wrong' as pubs 'continue to dwindle' across the Black Country.

Landlord Roy Pickering unhappy at the question mark over the Lower Gornal pub

Sold

The Fiddlers Arms is due to close at the end of this year and be replaced with a supermarket, five houses and 17 parking spaces.

The pub was sold by Marston's to NewRiver Retail in 2013 and has been rented on a lease basis ever since.

Mr Etheridge said: "The local public have spoken and said they want to keep the pub.

"The country is awash with convenience stores, but our stock of public houses continues to dwindle. Pubs are part of our heritage and it would be totally wrong to keep destroying character buildings such as this."

Landlord Roy Pickering said nothing would change unless more people visit the pub.

He explained: "It's up to the people of Lower Gornal to visit the pub more so we can show NewRiver Retail that the pub needs to stay.

"We don't want it knocked down as it would be a shame and I love it here."

NewRiver acquired the pub from Marston's as part of a 202-pub portfolio.

A representative of NewRiver said trade at the pub had dwindled significantly. The spokesperson said: "A detailed viability report will be provided as part of the planning application. This shows that the pub has had three tenants in the last six years and experienced a 70 per cent loss in trade over a four-year period.

"It is always regrettable when public houses close down, but to be sustainable, pubs are no different from any other business."

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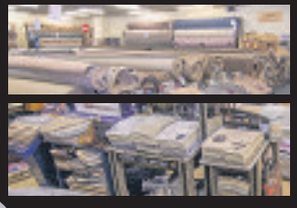

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More than 280 pupils excluded from school

MORE than 280 pupils have been permanently excluded from schools in Dudley over the past three years.

A total of 243 secondary school pupils and 40 primary school children in Dudley borough have been excluded from educational settings.

Nearly 6,000 pupils have also been temporarily excluded in the same period.

There are currently 26,385 pupils in primary schools and 17,018 pupils in secondary schools across the borough.

A total of 921 primary school pupils and 5,031 secondary school students were temporarily excluded in the past three years.

Placements

It means that just over one per cent of pupils were permanently excluded and more than 22 per cent of all pupils were temporarily excluded. More than 40 excluded children are currently awaiting alternative education provision.

As of October 2016, 105 schools in the borough were under council control.

UKIP councillor Paul Brothwood said: "It seems to be a high number of pupils and it is concerning."

By Lucy Thompson

Conservative Councillor Patrick Harley said: "We expect pupils to behave and not disrupt lessons because we want the children to learn and don't want a culture where children are being excluded."

Education boss Councillor Ian Cooper, cabinet member for children's services, said: "We work hard with our schools to ensure that permanent exclusions are kept to a minimum."

"Schools run a range of interventions and support to retain children and young people in education. The vast majority of permanently excluded pupils are quickly re-integrated."

He added: "A school will only permanently exclude in extreme circumstances."

Honour for 1910 strike leader Mary

Tireless campaigner – Mary Macarthur gives a speech to the striking chainmakers in Cradley Heath

SHE led the women chainmakers in Cradley Heath to victory over a fair wage more than 100 years ago - and now Edwardian socialist Mary Macarthur is being honoured with a commemorative plaque.

The Scottish trade unionist and suffragist led the women chainmakers of Cradley Heath out of the workshops and onto the streets to protest at poor conditions and low wages – and their victory paved the way for the minimum wage.

The strike lasted for for ten weeks and is credited with changing the lives of thousands of workers on poor wages.

Born in Glasgow in 1880, Mrs Macarthur moved to London and continued the fight for equal pay and women's rights.

Now English Heritage has unveiled a blue plaque at her former home at 42 Woodstock Road, Golders Green, where she died from cancer in 1921.

Anna Eavis, Curatorial Director at English Heritage, called Mary Macarthur a 'remarkable woman', adding: "She was tireless in her battle for equal pay and better working conditions."

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Event goes off with a Big Bang for young scientists

THOUSANDS of students from across the Black Country got a glimpse into the exciting world of science, maths and engineering at this year's Big Bang Fair.

The event at Birmingham's NEC aims to show children how a love of the two subjects can lead to careers in engineering and technology.

Students were able to take part in a variety of activities and workshops run by hundreds of science and engineering-based companies. They could even try their hand at surgery, identifying body parts in a gooey rubber doll to develop their biology skills.

X-rays

Birmingham City University put on that popular workshop, also teaching children about the skeleton and X-rays.

AJ Wallace, radiographer and lecturer, said: "We come here to show how an interest in biology can lead to careers in medicine and what that entails. We look to require and train paramedics, nurses to doctors and other roles such as radiography, which I specialise in."

Engineers from JCB were also on hand to show students how to build their own mini-digger and learn about a career with the Staffordshire-based firm. Simon Wood, registrations manager at JCB, said: "I think there is a misconception that all engineers are male when in fact women are award-winning engineers with us.

"Events such as this enable us to show what a career with JCB really is all about."

Tata consultancy and Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) were on hand to show how thermal imaging cameras can be used and how technology is advancing in the industry.

Cameron Hargreaves, application manager for JLR, said: "The technology makes an everyday box of sand, which children love, into a colourful example of how the technology works to explore natural contours in the land and shows where water would naturally form."

Robots were also on display with students given the chance to control and compete against each other using them.

Xander Soldeat, a software engineer of Vex robotics, said: "It's great for me to come out and see how the things we design have an impact on students. They can make their own robots from the packs we provide and it teaches them problem solving, improves their cognitive skills and enables them to create something unique."

Pupil Chelsea Nish from St Chad's Catholic Primary School in Sedgley takes part in an experiment

Revamped park gets wildflower area in £32k transformation

CAMPAIGNERS have expressed delight after receiving more than £30,000 funding to revamp a Dudley park.

Grazebrook Park will now be improved with new pathways, fencing and benches added to the area. Plans for boards to be put up around the park's war memorial giving details of fallen soldiers are also proposed.

A £32,000 grant was awarded to fund an overhaul of the underused park just outside the centre of Dudley. The money will turn the park into a diverse natural habitat and a welcoming space to relax and play. A new path will be laid with seating and interpretation panels detailing the space's history, as well as the species that reside there. A native wildflower area will also be created.

Lynn Horton, from the Friends of Buffery Park, said: "Securing the grant is fantastic news. It will see us add new fencing, new pathways and some work done around the war memorial by adding boards with the names of fallen heroes on and some benches for people to sit and remember. We are amazed to have gotten the grant as it is such a small park. But we have been passionate throughout in what we do."

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said: "I'm delighted that the Veolia Environmental Trust has provided funds to transform Grazebrook Park through the Landfill Communities Fund. I want to thank them and Steve Briscoe, Lyn Horton and their colleagues on the Friends group who do such brilliant work."

The project has been given the go-ahead thanks to grants awarded by The Veolia Environmental Trust through the Landfill Communities Fund.

Prison for thug who held pistol to ex's face

A JEALOUS thug pushed a handgun against the cheek of the terrified woman who had jilted him, a judge was told.

Report by John Scott

She then heard a 'click', which could have been the trigger, as they sat in his car on a remote farm track, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Richard Preston told her: "I would rather see you dead than with anyone else." He was ruled a danger to the public and given a six-year jail term with an extended period of licence on release.

The woman had ended their eight-month relationship after it was punctuated by a series of 'unpleasant assaults,' said Mr David Iles, prosecuting.

He added: "When she heard the clicking sound she didn't know if it was the trigger or something else. It was a very frightening moment."

Scarred

She had been left scarred both physically and emotionally by regular beatings during which the vicious 28-year-old hit and even bit her, the court heard.

"She had hoped he would change but he didn't," said Mr Iles.

On August 25 she agreed to meet him again for dinner but was driven from Wordsley to a bridle path near Enville where he produced the pistol.

After twice threatening her with the unloaded gun, Preston calmed down and apologised and drove her home.

But four days later, when they met again, he struck her across the throat and bit her hand. Police were called and Preston was arrested.

Mr Niall Skinner, defending, said Preston had been addicted to steroids. Mr Skinner added: "He went, in his own words, 'crazy and lost it'.

"There was an assault followed by an apology, and then the cycle would start again. He has a problem with anger and a tendency to strike out when things don't go his way."

Preston, a father-of-one, had been weaned off steroids during seven months spent in custody before sentencing, added Mr Skinner.

The defendant from Brooklands, Wordsley, admitted five assaults, a common assault, possession of an imitation gun with intent to cause fear of violence, driving when disqualified and criminal damage.

He was jailed by Judge Amjad Nawaz, who told him: "You are a jealous and obsessive man who represents a danger to the public, especially those with whom you have a relationship. You are a ticking time bomb."

Zoo's new farmyard

A £90,000 new farmyard building for Dudley Zoo has been approved. The work is a key part of major developments at the popular attraction, which is celebrating its 80th anniversary year.

Dudley Council has approved the new building, which will be double the size of the current farmyard.

The money for the projects is coming from zoo funds.

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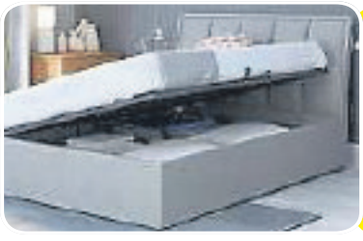

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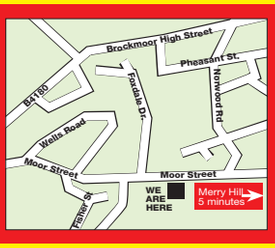

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One brother is a muslim, the other supports EDL

'I don't agree with it, but he's still my brother, I will never disown him. I love him'

English Defence League (EDL) supporter Lee Hadley was born less than three years after his brother Abdul-Rahmaan Tobin, then named Sean Tobin.

But the Black Country siblings are now at opposite ends of the spectrum when it comes to beliefs and way of life. Yet they remain close, speaking regularly on the telephone and seeing each other every two months.

Abdul-Rahmaan was born at Sandwell General Hospital while his mother lived in Oldbury. When she moved to Doulton Road in Dudley she had Lee, and Louise, with husband Paul Hadley. The half-brothers grew up to be very close, both supporting Wolves, playing together and mixing with the same friends.

The brothers seen together in TV's Extremely British Muslims

School

Both attended Springfield Junior School in Dudley, then Heathfield High School in Cradley Heath, after the family moved.

Then, eight years ago on Christmas Day, Abdul-Rahmaan took his 'leap of faith'.

The 33-year-old said: "It was something which I had been thinking about for three or four years. When I found out Islam was the truth for me, I knew there was only one direction for me to go.

"My family is very liberal, they didn't understand but they accepted it."

He is married to Hina and lives in Birmingham with her and their two children, Muahammed Abdullah and daughter Zahra, and with Hina's children from a previous marriage, Fatima, Salaar and Mohaimin.

Mr Hadley, 30, an assembler from Cradley Heath, said: "We grew up very close, but as we grew older we saw each other less.

"When he told me, we had a chat, and I supported him, but we were obviously different in where we both stood. I am a very patriotic person, I love my country and I've become a supporter of the EDL.

"We did two or three marches against the plans for a new Dudley mosque.

"We talked about it but we were sensible about it. I don't agree with it, but he is still my brother, I will never disown him. I still love him."

The pair appeared on Extremely British Muslims on Channel 4

Chasing rainbows at garden science event

Selling plants during the Jasmine Road Gardens science day was volunteer co-ordinator Jenny Cadman, of Stourbridge

FROM seed sowing and bread baking to tie-dying, families had fun with science during a community event in Dudley.

The Science Day was organised by volunteers from Jasmine Road Community Gardens in Kates Hill.

More than 100 people attended Saturday's event, which was made possible thanks to funding from the British Science Association.

Pupils from Beechwood CE Primary School also got involved with a display on their work on Seeds in Space. There was also an advisor on hand from the Royal Horticultural Society.

One experiment showed people how much sugar is in their drink and a rainbows demonstration with optical science. Plus there were traditional activities such as bee keeping and candle making.

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Chain will not raise beer price

A PUBS and brewery group based in Kingswinford is not to pass on the 2p per pint rise in beer duty from the spring Budget to its customers.

In a letter to Black Country Ales customers, director Angus McMeeking, says: "BCA will not be passing on this Budget's price increase to our loyal customers on this occasion, but we will be unable to hold prices further if the Treasury continues to attack this country's pub users and the nation's national drink."

The business, based on the Pensnett Trading Estate, hoped the hike did not signal a return to a policy of penalising pubs.

Mr McMeeking added: "It was those tax raids that were a major contributory factor in the closure of 25 per cent of all of Britain's pubs and closed pubs damage community life."

Group backs park's future

A PARK in Kingswinford is in line for improvements after a support group was set up to manage its future.

The Friends of Cot Lane Park will attempt to raise cash for the park in order to improve the facilities for its users.

The Friends are holding a quiz at the Mount Pleasant pub in Kingswinford on Monday, April 3, at 8.30pm to kick-off the fundraising campaign.

FOCUS ON KINGSWINFORD & WALL HEATH

Work starts on rebuilding popular barbecue eatery

A FIRE-WRECKED restaurant has started to be rebuilt in Wall Heath with its steel structure now in view.

The Kidderminster Road venue is set to reopen in July, nearly a year after a blaze gutted the site due to a fault in a refrigeration unit.

The demolition took place in recent weeks with only the white fencing from the former Hickory's Smokehouse restaurant remaining.

By Clare Butler

It had only opened in November 2015, on the site of the famous Kingfisher Club.

A total of 15 fire crews were called to deal with the fire at the American style eatery with around 100 firefighters on the scene at its height.

Guests in 22 rooms at the Kingfisher restaurant and hotel complex next door were evacuated, while the fire service advised people in the local area to keep their windows closed.

Delighted

A Hickory's spokesman said: "We are delighted to confirm that due to the overwhelming level of support they have received from the local area, they will be rebuilding the restaurant and work is expected to be completed by mid-summer 2017 with a proposed re-launch date of July."

Kingswinford Councillor Dave Tyler said: "It's good news to hear that Hickory's is planning to reopen."

Crews from Brierley Hill and Stourbridge were joined by 13 more appliances as firefighters had battled the blaze at the barbecue-style restaurant.

Area commander Steve Vincent added: "Crews worked tirelessly during hot and difficult conditions to try to save this important business."

At the time of the blaze dozens took to Twitter to express their concern.

Kingswinford North and Wall Heath ward councillor Ed Lawrence said: "Very sad to wake to the news about Hickory's. We will be offering all the support we can." His colleague Nicola Richards said: "Absolutely terrible news about Hickorys in Wall Heath, it's a great addition to our community."

Award-winning Cheryl Walker of Cheryl's Nail Design with some of her popular designs

Now Cheryl has got it nail-ed

A NAIL technician and business owner from the Black Country has won a national award.

Cheryl Walker of Cheryl's Nail Design Ltd, Kingswinford, was named Nail Technician of the Year at the English Hair & Beauty Awards on Sunday.

She beat ten other finalists shortlisted for the award.

She said: "I was left stunned. It was an amazing to win. The best bit was it was down to votes from the public."

Cheryl has been transforming people's nails for 24 years, after overcoming the habit of biting her own and being inspired to make nails beautiful.

The 48-year-old added: "I know that people travel from all over to get their nails done by me. I think it's because they know that their nails will last, the choice of designs and they love the products I use."

Council are to consider free parking

FREE parking could be trialled in Kingswinford as part of a pilot scheme to encourage residents to shop local.

It is hoped that the plans will boost the economy in Kingswinford, alongside other areas of Dudley that are sometimes overlooked by shoppers.

It has been recommended that if the free parking is successful, Dudley Council should consider rolling out two-hour free parking in council-owned car parks across the whole of the borough.

Council officers are putting a report together on the issue.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "We are currently exploring plans for a free parking pilot, following a motion at full council. We will have more details over the coming weeks."

Proposal for eight homes

AN electricity sub-station will be demolished and replaced with homes, under new plans.

Eight three-bedroom houses will be built on the plot off Nanaimo Way in Kingswinford if planning permission is granted.

The proposals have been submitted to Dudley Council by Stuart Andrews, of Evesham-based Park Grove Management

A replacement sub-station would be installed on a nearby site.

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Bollywood theme at dinner dance

FANS of Bollywood have the opportunity to enjoy a spectacular experience at a gala dinner and dance raising cash for charities.

The dinner-dance is being held at Dudley Town Hall, organised by the EKTA Group to raise money for the Mayor of Dudley's charities.

It will take place on Saturday, April 8, from 7pm, when guests can enjoy a three-course meal with live entertainment.

Tickets are from £18 with a discount available for groups of 10 or more. Balcony tickets providing entertainment only are available for £10.

Councillor Mohammed Hanif, Mayor of Dudley, said: "I'm delighted that this event has been organised to raise money for my nominated charities. It will provide fun and entertainment for everyone and I would encourage people to book their tickets quickly to avoid disappointment."

Call 01384 812812 or email ekta@matadamandir.org.uk for more information.

£6m work to widen busy route will get under way in May

WORK to increase capacity along a busy stretch of road through the Black Country will start in May.

Pensnett High Street, in Dudley, is to be widened and have new pedestrian crossings – and work will start this spring.

Hilary Bills, Dudley Council cabinet member for environmental services, said the work will take 15 months to complete at a cost of £6.3 million.

The plans have been in the pipeline for years and were previously slated to start around the middle of the year.

The project is set to cause major disruption on the road, which is used by 30,000 vehicles a day, but highways bosses said once complete the changes would hugely benefit drivers and pedestrians.

Councillor Bills thanked residents and businesses in the area for their 'patience' ahead of the work taking place.

Congestion

She said: "The Pensnett improvements are set to improve network capacity and will reduce congestion in the area.

"Work for this exciting project gets underway in May."

She said £3.8 million of the cost will be met by the Local Growth Fund, the rest by the Department of Transport.

"We would like to thank people for their patience while we undertake this important work, we will keep residents and business in the area informed and I would remind drivers that the latest traffic notifications can be found at www.dudley.gov.uk," she said.

The road is a vital artery for the Black Country and carries a huge volume of traffic, serving the Pensnett Trading Estate, the largest secured trading estate in Europe, as well as vehicles for Russells Hall Hospital.

The road will be widened into two lanes in both directions and new traffic lights installed around the site. It is hoped the work will also aid bus journeys and make services often delayed by traffic more reliable.

A look back at park heritage

A BOOK exploring the heritage of a famous Stourbridge park is to go on sale this month.

The book about Mary Stevens Park and will go on sale after a special launch event planned at the Dudley Council-run park, which has recently been subject to improvements.

Beauty for everyone: The story of Mary Stevens Park has been written by the Mary Stevens Park History Group with local historians Roy Peacock and Stephen Howard.

Beginning with a look at the early years of the glass industry in the area during the 1600s, the book examines how the park has played an important part in local life since it opened in 1931.

The book costs £7.99 from Mary Stevens Coffee Lounge and Oldswinford Coffee Lounge No92 from March 30.

Paralympic hero meets pupils

Paralympic gold medalist Jonnie Peacock MBE visits Kates Hill pupil Rylan Bishop

PUPILS struck gold when Paralympian and gold medal athlete Jonathan Peacock stopped by to visit them at their school in Dudley.

Students at Kates Hill Primary School welcomed 23-year-old Jonathan, an English sprint runner and amputee, won gold at the 2012 Summer Paralympics and 2016 Summer Paralympics, representing Great Britain in the T44 men's 100 metres event.

The visit was organised by BT after the school won a national competition which saw the youngsters highlight the benefits of superfast broadband.

Hundreds

The school's entry was then randomly selected from hundreds submitted by schools across the country.

Jonathan said: "It's my first trip to Dudley. It's been absolutely fantastic to meet all of the kids, they've asked me all sorts of questions. One of the children asked about my dog and what breed it is, which was very cool.

"I was also speaking to one of the teachers and a lot of the children do around a mile worth of walking everyday, which is awesome.

"We didn't do that sort of thing in school and being active is so important. Even if it's just a 15 to 20 minute walk, it's great that a lot of schools are trying to become more active. It's very important to have an active lifestyle."

Jonathan added: "I'm now doing a lot of winter training. I've just completed a host of indoor competitions. It's time to get back into the hard work."

Teacher Kevin Orchard said: "It's been a very successful day and the children were thrilled to meet Jonnie. They talked to him about keeping healthy and fit and how technology can be used in keeping fit."

Two men jailed after bringing in disguised stun guns from Turkey

TWO men have been jailed after they brought stun guns disguised as torches into the UK from Turkey.

On September 15, 2015, 22-year-old Brett Anslow, 22, and Michael Chand, 49, were passengers on a flight from Turkey which landed at Birmingham International Airport.

Once they had cleared immigration, they collected their luggage and headed through the green 'nothing to declare' channel when stopped by a customs officer. On searching their belongings, officers recovered six stun guns disguised as torches, six knuckledusters and a friction lock baton.

The two were charged with possessing disguised firearms. At Birmingham Crown Court, Anslow, of Four Winds Road, Dudley, was sentenced to two and a half years imprisonment and Chand, of Old Bridge Walk, to 18 months.

Jason Corden-Bowen, district crown prosecutor from West Midlands Crown Prosecution Service, said: "When detained at the airport, the two defendants claimed that they were unaware that bringing such prohibited items into the UK was illegal.

"Disguised firearms are dangerous weapons and possession of them is regarded with the utmost gravity. We hope that today's convictions send out a clear message that bringing items like these into this country is illegal and those caught will be robustly prosecuted."

Tickets for St George family fun

PEOPLE are being urged to grab the last bargain tickets for St George's Day celebrations at Dudley Zoo.

Dudley Council and the zoo have teamed up to host a patriotic day to celebrate St George on April 23.

There are a limited number of tickets still available for people to gain admission to the attraction from 3pm at just £2.50 per person.

Visitors will be able to join the fun in the castle courtyard with themed activities including medieval re-enactments, children's entertainer Dippy, dragon puppets, stilt walkers, face painting and crafts.

There will also be extra animal, history and ghost talks and feeding sessions at the penguin and sea lion enclosures. Visit dudleyzoo.org.uk or call 01384 215313.

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Super sale before makeover

Interiors Italia, the trend-bucking interior superstore, has propped up the corner of Darlington Street and Waterloo Road for nearly a decade.

To get it ready for the next 10 years, the store is getting ready for a makeover, but before they can start... everything must go.

"I can't wait to get started," said Store Manager Roberta Colavito, "But before we can begin, we need to sell everything. We're having a huge sale and at these prices I hope people don't camp outside the shop. We're closing for two weeks to give the entire store a monumental makeover."

The doors will close at 6pm on Tuesday. April 18 to allow the store to complete its refurbishment. The new look store will open at 10.30am on Friday, April 28, when customers can catch the first glimpse of the revamped showroom.

Wealth of delights to give a new look to your home

The shop front of Interiors Italia, in Darlington Street, Wolverhampton

Promotions

Until then, the customer service desk will keep normal shop hours and the helpful staff can tell you all about the updated store. As the launch draws closer they'll also be on hand to explain the offers and promotions to mark the relaunch.

For 10 years the 'Italian furniture shop', has forged its place in the heart of Wolverhampton's city centre. Roberta believes the store has held its ground against disruption in the retail market for many reasons.

"Perhaps we've held on so well because of the store's renowned style and its unique range, or because it has such a loyal customer base.

Over the last 10 years British retail has changed a lot. You can see this by the number of shops that are closing on the high street. Nowadays customers can buy anything they want without leaving their home. We have pieces to suit every style and budget and our customers love to discover and get inspiration when they visit the store.

Here, they can also feel and interact with the products and that isn't possible when you're shopping online."

The new look store will introduce a large selection of beautiful oak furniture and on the first floor customers will discover one of the largest independent bed centres in Wolverhampton. The refurbishment will also mean improved elevator access.

The improved lifts will enable shoppers to enjoy all three floors without the need to have a sit down half way, unless of course they fancy trying out one of the new designer Italian sofas.

From now until the launch, the business will be recruiting new staff to help in the refurbished store. Applicants can register their interest here at http://www.italianfurnitureshop.co.uk

> ***"It is our goal to provide our customers with the best possible furniture shopping experience"***

"We are extremely grateful for all the support that we have received," Roberta Colavito concludes.

"We would like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding while we enter this exciting phase of development. It is our goal to provide our customers with the best possible furniture shopping experience and on April 28, we move one step closer to that dream."

The signs have gone up in the windows and the 'Everything Must Go Sale' begins this Saturday (25)at 10.30 am.

Interiors Italia will be offering huge savings on all shop floor display items to clear the store ready for the refit. Customers can also take advantage of extra discounts on offer for new orders during the sale period both in store and online.

BUSINESS PROFILE

Business: Interiors Italia

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Website: www.italianfurnitureshop.co.uk

Cyclist Hugh leads the way on charity ride for hospice

A CYCLING legend will give a masterclass in pedal powerwhen he takes to the roads in his latest biking challenge.

Four-times World Pursuit Champion Hugh Porter has organised a charity bike ride offering cyclists a choice of three distances. Last year's inaugural ride attracted 580 cyclists.

The cycling veteran, aged 77, will be taking part in the short distance cycle. He still rides regularly but wants to get back to the finishing line in time to give out the medals.

He said: "It's going to be a cracking day. I'd love to get 1,000 people taking part."

The Round the Wrekin Sportive, which will raise money for Compton Hospice, will take place on May 21 from Kingswinford Rugby Club, and will head towards the Shropshire Hills taking in Long Mynd and Stiperstones. Cyclists can choose between a distance of just over 100 miles, around 60 miles or 25 miles, depending on ability and inclination.

Mr Porter, from Wolverhampton, will be taking part in the shortest route through Bobbington, Claverley and Pattingham. He said: "The 100-miler will be an epic ride which will interest a lot of serious club cyclists, while the middle-distance ride is the the one which we expect to attract the biggest number of entrants. The short ride is ideal for families or people who are new to cycling.

"The start route and the return route are the same for everyone, with different loops of varying length. Whichever route, people will be able to see the Wrekin, more or less, all the time." Last year's challenge raised just under £22,000 for Compton Hospice.

Hugh Porter, centre, will be in the saddle for a charity ride over a choice of distances from Kingswinford

Rise in number of people out of work

UNEMPLOYMENT in the West Midlands rose in three months to January — despite the UK rate falling to its lowest since the summer of 1975.

The regional total of 160,000 was up 9,000 (or five per cent) on the August to October quarter with the unemployment rate up from 5.3 per cent to 5.6 per cent.

Nationally unemployment fell by 31,000 in the three months to January, to 1.58m, the lowest for a decade, giving a jobless rate of 4.7 per cent. Almost 32 million people are now in work, a jump of 92,000 over the quarter and 315,000 compared with a year earlier.

Figures for last month for people claiming unemployment benefits, including Universal Credit - where people are required to seek work – and Jobseeker's Allowance, were also up across the region. The West Midlands total rose 3,065 to 85,800 with Staffordshire up 210 to 5,485.

The gradual introduction of Universal Credit in the region has distorted figures because it widens the number of people who can claim.

Dudley's total was up by 110 to 5,800 (three per cent).

Plastic pipe work aims to improve tap water

NEARLY £400,000 will be spent on replacing old pipes in Stourbridge to stop brown water flowing out of taps.

The six-month scheme will be carried out along Racecourse Lane, near Stourbridge Golf Club, and is aimed at resolving a long-standing problem with discoloured water, which has been put down to the age of the cast iron pipes.

By Jamie Brassington

The road will be closed between the junctions of Norton Road and Ounty John Lane while the work is carried out and motorists are being warned to expect delays.

A diversion will be put in place on Norton Road, Heath Lane, Hagley Road, and Worcester Lane.

Severn Trent has been receiving complaints about discoloured water from residents in the area for years.

The replacement scheme, which will see crews lay down three kilometres of plastic pipes, will benefit around 200 homes.

Dangerous

Councillor Heather Rogers, who is represents Norton Ward, which covers the areas of Norton and parts of Oldswinford and Pedmore, said there was no way to avoid shutting off Racecourse Lane to traffic during the work.

"The road is very dangerous because there's no pavement and there's a lot of blind and dangerous bends so drivers can't see the traffic coming," she explained.

"There's no other option than to shut the road."

The scheme will also affect Fairways Avenue and Osmaston Road, which are off the main A451 Kidderminster Road.

Martin Oliver, who is leading the project, said the work will cost almost £400,000 and is expected to be finished by September.

He said: "We've already replaced a small section of pipe in the area and now we're planning to replace all of the old cast iron pipes with brand new durable plastic pipes.

"We're aware there have been some issues reported in the area where the old pipes have caused some people to receive discoloured water.

"That's why we've taken the decision to invest heavily in this area to make sure everyone in Stourbridge has access to a great supply of water at the turn of a tap."

He added: "Our contractors from Amey will be working hard to keep disruption to a minimum during the course of the scheme. They'll work closely with residents and will keep access to homes and businesses as clear as possible."

Money pledged for better centre access

PATIENTS affected by the merger of two GP surgeries have convinced health bosses to provide an extra £62,000 to carry out improvements.

Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) announced plans to relocate Links Medical Practice into Netherton Health Centre on the opposite side of Halesowen Road.

As a result, more than 3,000 patients will start attending Netherton Health Centre, with its roll of 7,500 patients, based just 75 metres away.

But patients raised concerns about a poor route from the car park to the Netherton Health Centre building. Now the CCG has agreed to provide the additional funding to improve the access route.

Work on a new footpath is expected to start in the next few months. The CCG says access to the building will not be affected during this time.

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Green oceans under threat

THE sun is out, the sap is rising and spring is in the air. There's nothing like a walk in the park on a crisp, sunny day.

Be it the glorious Victorian features of Wolverhampton's West Park, the ancient ruins of Priory Park in Dudley, or the lush woodland of Walsall's famous arboretum, there is something wonderful about the green open spaces which define our county.

"They are the lungs of the Black Country," says Councillor Mrs Hilary Bills, Dudley Council's cabinet member for environmental services, and secretary of the Friends of Hurst Green Park.

"We are very fortunate in the Black Country," she says. "We call it the Black Country, but we have got these oceans of green space."

But a recent report by MPs warns that many of these green oceans could be under threat if action is not taken soon.

Decline

The parliamentary local government select committee warned that Britain's parks are at a 'tipping point', facing a period of severe decline, due to a combination of funding pressures, weaknesses in the planning process, and a shortage of housing. It says more needs to be done to recognise the contribution parks make not just as a place of leisure, but to our mental and physical wellbeing.

The report says more than 92 per cent of park budgets have been cut by local authorities, which are themselves struggling to balance the books due to reduced funding from central government.

The West Midlands has certainly not been immune from these pressures. Wolverhampton Council has to make savings of £23.5 million over the next 2017/18 financial year, while Walsall Council is looking to save £86 million over the next four years, and inevitably parks are down the list of priorities compared to statutory provision which local authorities have to provide by law.

The flower beds in West Park, Wolverhampton looking in top condition

Walsall Council looked into scrapping cricket pitches and bowling greens in its parks, but ultimately rejected the proposals after public consultation.

Councillor Bills says there have been huge pressures in Dudley, too.

"Dudley has lost £258 million funding since 2011, that's a third of our total funding, and we have had to make staff reductions," she says.

"At the moment, the thing that is saving us is our wonderful friends groups who are giving up their time volunteering for the good of the community."

The MPs' committee warns that the UK may not meet the UN's Sustainable Development Goal in respective of safe and inclusive access to parks and green spaces by 2030.

It calls on councils to produce strategic plans that recognise the value of parks beyond leisure and recreation, and set out how they will be managed to maximise their contribution to wider local authority agendas, such as promoting healthy lifestyles, tackling social exclusion and managing flood risk. The plans could open up parks to support and funding from beyond their usual budgets and services areas, it adds.

The National Trust says the committee report is a "wake-up call". "It is full of practical proposals that show the problem can be solved if we act together now, with an ambition and spirit that reflects people's passion for parks," says the trust's Harry Bowell.

The revamped Priory Park in Dudley with reinstated rock garden

Trees line the lake at Walsall Arboretum

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Bush dogs return to zoo with a sister act

The threatened species look more like badgers or otters than dogs, and have a new home in Dudley

THREE fluffy sisters are settling in at their new home, marking the return of bush dogs to Dudley Zoo after a five-year absence.

With their round ears, webbed feet and short legs, they may not look much like dogs, but the semi-aquatic South American mammals are in fact part of the canine family.

Three-year-old sisters Scarlet, Ruby and Rioja have relocated to the heart of the Black Country from Twycross Zoo.

Sarah Evans, senior keeper, said: "We're really pleased to have bush dogs again, especially a young pack. We've returned them to the enclosure where our last pack lived, so we hope they'll show really well there as they seem very lively girls.

"They have only been here for a few days, so are still settling in, but we've already identified Ruby as the dominant female, as she is more inquisitive. Rioja is very noisy and Scarlet seems the quieter one."

A near threatened species, bush dogs are native to Central and South America, but are losing their habitat for farming.

Wedding heartbreak fraudsters are jailed

A 'CALLOUS and deceitful' pregnant mother-of-two has been jailed for three years after bringing misery to brides across the country.

Former nurse Lisa Holt pocketed more than £100,000 while tricking customers into paying for catering packages that never arrived at wedding receptions and parties.

The 41-year-old's mechanic husband Ryan, also 41, who illegally raked in £57,000 helping to run Bake A Cake, their fraudulent Halesowen-based business that collapsed in summer 2015, had his prison sentence reduced to nine months for the sake of their children.

By John Scott

The double-dealing businesswoman, who is expecting twins, was the brains behind the online firm that let down scores who had paid for wedding cakes, chocolate fountains, DJs, decorations and photo booths that never arrived.

Customers handed over up to £1,700 each before discovering the firm had closed.

Dudley Trading Standards Department received complaints from 150 people, owed a total of £56,000.

Desperate Holt tried to lie her way out of trouble by claiming her husband was close to death, that burglars had stolen all the business documents from her home and that the address had been hit by arsonists. She even claimed she was under police protection.

She conned over £45,000 from internet giant Wowcher after it signed up 556 customers for the firm. Wowcher was left to refund all the disappointed customers. Bambooths, who provided photo booths at more than 200 Bake a Cake events, are still owed £3,500.

She made a total profit of £104,000 from the fraudulent business and is paying those she cheated back at a rate of £1 a month.

Judge Barry Berlin told Lisa Holt at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Tuesday: "You are a callous and dishonest woman."

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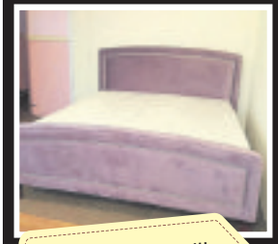

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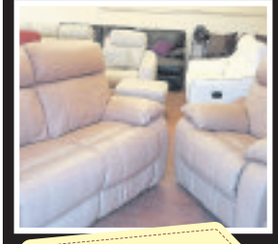

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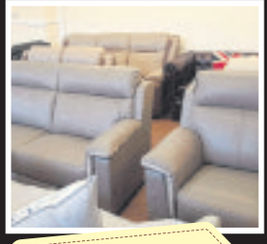

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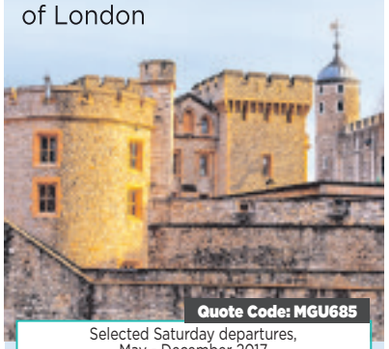

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Divorce? We are here to help you get through it

Commercial feature

HERE at Talbots Law we aim to clarify the Divorce and Separation process for you. We do not underestimate how unsettling and stressful separation can be to all parties involved.

Each case is unique to the parties involved and their particular circumstances. There are often 101 questions our clients wish to know the answers to and we aim to answer as many as we can in a straightforward and clear way. Some we are often asked are along the following lines:-

1. Is there such thing as a quickie divorce? On average, a divorce will take about six months. If both parties are co-operating, it could be four or five months. However there are lots of other things that need to be considered like sorting out finances, sale of the house perhaps, pensions and of course, children.

2. Is there such a thing as a common-law man and wife? The answer to that is no. Separation of couples who are not married has to be looked at in a different way as the courts do not have the power to deal with people's finances or their relationship in the same way as if they were married. We do have considerable experience in dealing with people who are separating, even when they are not married.

3. Are Pre Nuptial Agreements binding? In happy or uncertain times people often forget to think about what might happen if things do not go according to plan in their new relationship. There is not a specific law that says such agreements are binding. The courts are tending to uphold more of these that have been entered into before a marriage, but there is a long list of requirements that needs to have been met for the court to say that the agreement is binding. Two of those requirements are that there has been full financial disclosure by both parties and also that both parties have had their own legal advice.

James Wright – here to help

4. What about our children? When separating, it is often upsetting for parents to have to consider what happens to their children. It is always hoped that the parents can decide what is in the best interests of their children between themselves. If they can't, the court will help them out and, if necessary, intervene. There are certain things that are helpful to know in these circumstances. It is always thought best for children to continue to have a relationship with both parents unless there is a certain reason as to why not. If there cannot be an agreement between the two parties, the court will make a final decision in the best interests of the children.

5. Are there other ways of resolving your case apart from court? Yes there is. This is known as mediation. If the circumstances are right in your case, then it may be possible to meet with a mediator to discuss not only arrangements for your children, but also financial arrangements following separation. Mediation can be more cost effective in the long run and it tries to encourage parties to sort out their own situation amicably.

We have only given you a snapshot of the things that need to be discussed with a lawyer. We understand that your case is individual to your particular circumstances and your family's needs. It is only when we talk in detail about your circumstances that we can provide detailed and tailored advice with options for you to consider. To speak to one of our Family team about these issues or any other you may be considering, please call 0800 118 1500 or visit www.talbotslaw.co.uk for more information.

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Filling an arena . . . ? It's not Impossible

He's the first to admit he could have ended up on the 'scrapheap' for good, but James Arthur is reclaiming his dreams. The singer talks to The Ticket about growing up, and why arena tours and a self-help book are up next.

The night before the Brits last month, James tweeted that if anyone had told him a year ago he'd be up for two awards, his response would have been, 'F**k off'.

And who could blame him? His tumultuous period after winning The X Factor back in 2012 was well-documented.

He rowed with fellow musicians online, offended the LGBT community and got dropped by Syco, Simon Cowell's record label.

It all read like a tale of self-destruction, rather than one of music success.

But now the Middlesbrough-born 29-year-old is back – and as far as surprise turnarounds go, he's crafted a career-revival that bows down only to Craig David's. He'll bring his solo tour to plays Birmingham's O2 Academy on Friday, March 24, and is on the line-up for V Festival in Weston Park in August.

James may not have taken any gongs home from the Brits but says it was an 'honour' to be nominated. Before that, his sophomore album, Back From The Edge – released in October, shot to number one in the charts, as did lead single Say You Won't Let Go; he's back on the books at Syco, and has just started on a UK tour that runs throughout March.

Back from the brink – James's new tour sold out in 10 minutes

MELTDOWN

"It's mind-blowing," he mutters softly, rolling his rings around his fingers as he speaks.

"At the Brits two years ago, Jimmy Carr got up and made some crack about me having a meltdown, and I remember watching it, thinking, 'I am a joke in this country, there's no coming back from this'.

"Not only was I an X Factor winner that got dropped by Syco, and when that happens you're never heard of again, but everyone thought I was a clown. I was in those 'where are they now' articles and I was like, 'F**k me, I'm that guy, I'm on the scrapheap'."

James credits his escape from the overcrowded pop scrapheap to a spirit forged through his unbalanced upbringing.

"I remember when my parents put me up for foster care and no one gave a f**k about me. I've been a survivor for so many years, I've always felt like I've been trying to survive and always found a way to climb out of the s**t. That's just been a theme of my life, it's the mentality I've had to get out of the mire."

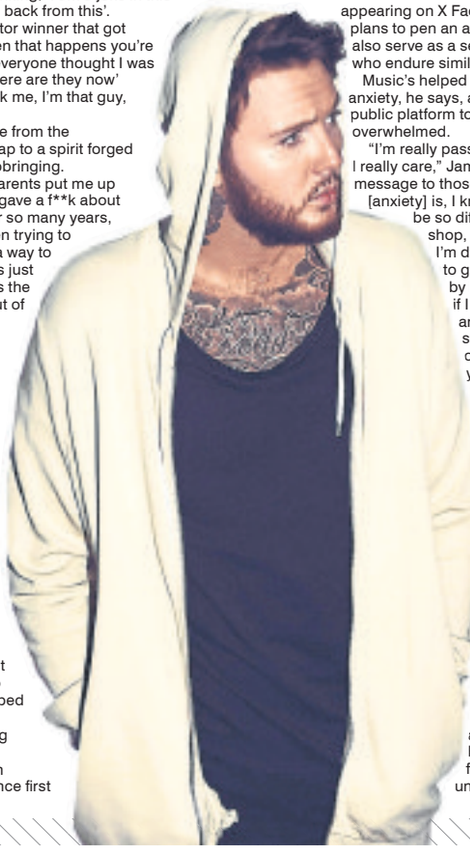
Opening up about that journey – from living in a bedsit, to winning The X Factor, and then watching it all crumble down around him – he says it left him feeling 40 or 50 years old.

"It's like I've been around for a long time, and to some people it might seem a bit bizarre me saying, 'I'm back from the edge', but it is wild when you think about it."

He says the comeback was fuelled by his on/off girlfriend, professional dancer Jessica Grist.

"I pushed everyone away, I ignored everyone. It was just me and Jess, who was so supportive and helped me through a million panic attacks and a million calling ambulances."

James has suffered from 'crippling' panic attacks since first appearing on X Factor, and reveals he has plans to pen an autobiography that will also serve as a self-help book for fans who endure similar issues.



Music's helped him cope with his anxiety, he says, and he wants to use his public platform to inspire others who feel overwhelmed.

"I'm really passionate about it and I really care," James explains. "My message to those that do have it [anxiety] is, I know regular things can be so difficult – going to the shop, just going outside – but I'm doing it. And I'm having to go out and be judged by it and by the world. So if I can travel to France and play a gig in a train station with thousands of people around, then you can get up and go to the shop, buy a pint of milk and you will survive, you'll be all right."

As for returning to Syco – the label reportedly wanted him back after Simon Cowell listened to James's second record – the singer says he initially wanted to reject their offer, but relented because he's a 'sucker for a story'.

"When they asked me to come back, I thought, 'Well I'm number one on iTunes already, so f**k you', but I'm a massive fan of fairy tales and underdog stories. I'm the one person in history that they came back to, I like that that will be written, it's a bit of an ego thing.

> *I pushed everyone away, I ignored everyone. It was just me and Jess*

"I felt like I had to prove myself to them, to let them know how good I am, how mature I've become and how much I've grown up."

For James, that sense of maturity means having more diplomacy when dealing with the label's A&R – those responsible for looking after musicians and their output.

"I'd never experienced A&R before and it p***ed me off. I hated A&R. I was like, 'Don't tell me how to make music, I've just won The X Factor, have a bit of faith in me – I'm James Arthur, I'm the best thing that's ever come from this show. I'm gonna make you a lot of money'," he admits.

"But that's not how it works. If you're signed to a major label, you have an A&R, they do have to give opinions and if I was left to structure songs, we'd have eight-minute, obscure left-of-centre tracks."

He's pleased that Back From The Edge's success means he can now perform some different songs live. No doubt his fans felt the same; James's UK tour sold out in just over 10 minutes.

"We could've done arenas this time," he says, "but I'm happy because I love to do those packed out rooms."

If his current winning streak continues, he'll be playing those arena tours in no time...

- **James plays O2 Academy Birmingham on Friday.**
- **For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.**

On tour – New Model Army

Rock stalwarts spring back after release of album Winter

STALWARTS of the alternative rock scene for more than 35 years, New Model Army are back with a tour that brings them to Bilston's Robin 2 venue on Saturday.

The tour comes after releasing latest album Winter with customary contrariness at the height of last summer.

Formed by Justin Sullivan in Bradford in 1980, New Model Army's beginnings were inspired by punk rock and the incendiary atmosphere of the times.

Since then, they have had a long, creative and eventful journey. They have been massively influential in post-punk, folk-rock, political-rock, goth, metal and all kinds of musical sub-cultures but have steadfastly refused to belong to any club that would have them as members.

NMA have built up an almost religious devotion amongst fans. Having grasped early on that the Internet was going to revolutionise the music industry, from the mid-1990s they set out on the now fashionable wholly independent path of controlling all aspects of their output. As a result, they have outlasted most of their peers.

Winter was released on the band's own Attack Attack label. This album saw New Model Army receive the best critical response of their career and top 30 chart positions in UK and Germany.

The album is a powerful and emotionally intense body of work. Says founder, lead singer and main songwriter Justin Sullivan: "I think Winter has a really strong identity. It is very much the sound of people in difficult places, something that so many of us can relate to at the moment, on a lot of different levels. We made a deliberate choice in mixing it to sound more aggressive and a little less polished."

Originally formed as a three piece, the current five piece features Michael Dean on drums, Dean White on keyboards and guitar, Marshall Gill on guitar and Ceri Monger on bass.

Tickets for New Model Army, supported by Under A Banner, at the Robin 2 cost £20 in advance or £22 on the door.

I'm just a normal bloke – Mouth of the South

AFTER a sell-out autumn tour, the star of BBC TV's Live At The Apollo, Mock The Week and Channel 4's 8 Out Of 10 Cats, Rob Beckett is back on the road touring the UK.

The 31-year-old comic from South London, nicknamed 'the Mouth of the South' due to his toothy grin, is one of the most popular comedians in the country, quick-witted with a matey likability.

"I just try and be a normal bloke," observes Rob, who is the popular host of the Absolute Radio show, Rock'n'Roll Football.

"At the end of the day, we're just chatting on stage. I'm genuinely grateful that people come to see me. If it wasn't for the audience, I wouldn't have a jet-wash, I'd just have an ordinary hose!

"I've done hundreds of low-paid jobs in my time. I used to work in a flower market carrying around bags of compost. So the fact that I can now put my face on a poster and people will turn up for the show makes me so pleased."

The comedian, who between 2012 and 2014 co-presented ITV2 spin-off show I'm a Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here! NOW!, says his rapport with audiences stems from his natural curiousity.

"I'm just nosey! I love talking to the audience and getting them involved. I really like hearing their stories."

Another element that keeps his Mouth of the South show fresh is the fact that Rob's material is constantly evolving.

The stand-up says:"I don't want to be living in fear of altering a routine. I'd rather change it and let it progress. I enjoy that much more. That's how I can do 200 shows on a tour because it's always growing and changing. If I didn't do that, I'd have gone mad by now."

On tour Rob will be covering such down-to-earth, subjects as holidays, Christmas, cold calls and nights out. His routines are taken from his own life.

"I enjoy making people laugh. I'm as funny as I can be for 90 minutes. I try and take people's minds off things for an hour and a half. If you ever stop enjoying that, that's the moment to give up."

He adds: "Before I did stand-up, I'd always been rubbish at everything. I was doing all sorts of terrible jobs on the minimum wage and living in a grotty flat in Lewisham.

"Then I started doing comedy, and all of a sudden I finally found something I was good at and I'm not letting it go."

Rob comes to Birmingham Town Hall on Saturday (April 8). See www.thsh.co.uk or call 0121 780 3333.

Brothers set to spread some joy at 02 Institute

INFLUENTIAL Scottish rock band The Jesus & Mary Chain, AKA Reid brothers Jim and William (pictured), release Damage and Joy, their first album for 19 years today and play Birmingham O2 Institute on March 31.

The Blossoms had a great 2016, playing Glastonbury, headlining their first UK tour and hitting the no1 spot with their eponymous debut album. See them at Birmingham O2 Academy on Wednesday (March 29).

Let's hope it's T-shirt weather when Liverpool's indie popsters Circa Waves play Brum's O2 Institute on Thursday (March 30), following the release this month of second album Different Creatures.

Acerbic Lee set to provide comedy

AFTER several years of his BBC TV show Stewart Lee's Comedy Vehicle, Content Provider is acerbic Shropshire-born Lee's first new full-length show since the award-winning Carpet Remnant World. It is being staged at the Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on Monday and Tuesday night. Other comedy highlights are in Wolverhampton with Ignacio Lopez and Simon Emanuel at the Grand Theatre's Encore Lounge tomorrow (Friday); then Harry Hill's sometime assistant and Albert Square resident Charlie Baker at Wolverhampton Slade Rooms on Saturday.

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Sat 27 May	Longleat Safari Park, Jungle Cruise & Windsor	£99
Sat 3 Jun	Legoland Discovery & Blackpool Funtime	£89
Sat 10 Jun	London & Harry Potter Studio Tour	£119
Sat 10 Jun	London Zoo & Thames River Cruise	£119
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Brendan O'Carroll

All Round to Mrs Brown's (BBC1, 9.15pm)

New series. Mrs Brown's Boys creator, writer and star Brendan O'Carroll dons Agnes's famous cardigan and curlers once again, throwing open the doors of the larger-than-life Irish matriarch's home to host a Saturday night chat show, filmed in front of a live studio audience. Inviting friends, family and special guests to join her in the sitting room, Mrs Brown stages mischievous stunts, and gives a few celebrity visitors a piece of her mind.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Everyday. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.30** Money for Nothing. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.15** Wallace & Gromit: A Matter of Loaf and Death. (R) **3.45 Film:** Brave. (2012) Animated fantasy, with the voice of Kelly Macdonald. **5.10** Who Dares Wins. **5.50** BBC News.

6.00 Regional Programme.

6.10 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present. (R)

6.55 Let's Sing and Dance for Comic Relief. After three weeks of enthusiastic mimicry, the comedy-themed musical talent show draws to a close. Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins are on hand to present a live grand final, in which the six most popular celebrity performers from the previous three rounds battle it out. Back on March 4, first-round judges Katharine Ryan, Jo Brand and Frank Skinner were suitably impressed by Sara Pascoe's acrobatic turn as Chandelier singer Sia, while the public were wowed by Rickie Haywood and Melvin Odoom's 1990s-era Will Smith medley. These two acts became the first to grab a confirmed place in the final, and tonight, they perform alongside their rivals from successive weeks to determine which off-beat performance will ultimately be named the winner. Taking a seat on the panel this week are Rufus Hound and Jason Manford, while Zara Larsson and Dua Lipa perform. Last in the series.

8.25 Casualty. Robyn's baby daughter is rushed into NICU following her premature birth, and the new mother struggles to decide whether to follow her head or her heart when it comes to treatment.

9.15 All Round to Mrs Brown's. New series. Brendan O'Carroll steps into the guise of Agnes Brown once again to host a Saturday night chat show, featuring mischievous stunts and appearances by celebrity visitors.

10.15 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.35 Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End. (2007) Fantasy adventure sequel, with Johnny Depp and Geoffrey Rush.

2.10 (BST) Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.20 A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.05 Film:** A Damsel in Distress. (1937) **8.40 Film:** Hue and Cry. (1947) **10.00** Growing Up Wild: Natural World. (R) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Two Greedy Italians: Still Hungry. (R) **1.00** War Films, Talking Pictures. (R) **1.45 Film:** The Wooden Horse. (1950) Fact-based Second World War drama, starring Leo Genn. **3.25** Flog It! (R) **4.00** University Challenge. (R) **4.30** Only Connect. (R) **5.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **5.30** Puerto Rico – Island of Enchantment: Natural World. (R)

6.30 Wild Ireland: The Edge of the World. Part two of two. (R)

7.30 When Lynn Barber Met Phyllida Barlow. Veteran journalist Lynn Barber interviews sculptor and art teacher Phyllida Barlow, 30 years after they first met as young mothers living in North London.

8.00 Grand Tours of the Scottish Islands. Paul Murton crosses the great natural harbour of Scapa Flow to the island of Flotta, before heading round the main Island of Orkney to Stronsay.

8.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring gives the platoon a lecture in communications and his men have an opportunity to put what they have learnt into action when an enemy aircraft ditches in a reservoir. (R)

9.00 Paula Rego: Secrets and Stories. Making use of new interviews and a vast archive of home video, film-maker Nick Willing compiles an intimate portrait of his mother, the celebrated painter Paula Rego. While Rego has been notoriously private and guarded about her personal life, she opens up to her son, discussing secrets and stories from her live, which has seen her battle fascism, misogyny in art world, and manic depression. Willing's film dictates his mother's story from her native Portugal, where she used her pictures as a weapon against dictatorship, through to settling in London, where she turned her craft toward tackling women's issues such as abortion rights.

10.30 QI XL.

11.15 Film: The Reluctant Fundamentalist. (2012) Drama, starring Riz Ahmed and Liev Schreiber.

2.15 Film: (BST) Albatross. (2011) **3.40** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go! **8.30** Scrambled!: Bear Grylls Survival School. **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Alphabetical. (R) **10.30 Film:** Carry On Follow That Camel. (1967) **12.15** ITV News; Weather. **12.25 Film:** Horrid Henry: The Movie. (2011) Children's comedy, starring Theo Stevenson. **2.10** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **3.00** Bargain Shop Wars. (R) **3.30** Tipping Point. (R) **4.30** The Chase. (R) **5.25** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.40** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 You've Been Framed! Unlimited. Harry Hill narrates.

7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. The entertainer duo try their hands at archery in Ant v Dec, and Take That join the pair for a special End of the Show Show.

8.30 The Voice UK. The sought-after contract with Polydor Records becomes ever more tangible a goal as the eight remaining would-be pop icons enter the semi-final. Having survived auditions, the battle rounds, the knockout stage and the quarter-finals, the contestants should be more than a little familiar with the pressures of a live performance. However, with a place in the grand final in the offing, the pressure has never been higher for the singers. As always, coaches Will.i.am, Tom Jones, Gavin Rossdale and Jennifer Hudson are on hand to deliver their verdicts on each performer's voice-work, and ultimately cut the number of hopeful stars by half, as only four competitors can progress through to the final. Emma Willis provides viewers with access to all the backstage drama and on-stage reactions as events unfold.

10.20 ITV News; Weather.

10.35 Lethal Weapon. A string of neighbourhood burglaries hits close to home for Murtaugh. (R)

11.35 The Chase. (R)

12.30 Jackpot247. **4.00** (BST) Who's Doing the Dishes? (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** Mobil 1 The Grid. **7.10** British Rally Championship. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** The Simpsons. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** Extreme Food. **1.00** Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. **2.50** The Restoration Man. (R) **3.35** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. (R) **4.35** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** Grand Designs. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Escape to the Chateau. Dick and Angel only have a few weeks to prepare for their wedding, but the chateau is nowhere near ready to receive the 200 guests they have invited and finding reliable, affordable workers is proving difficult. Dick oversees the damming of the moat and the installation of a new, eco-friendly sewage system, while Angel turns her attention to giving the rooms a distinctive decor. Last in the series. (R)

8.00 Film: The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel. (2011) Seven English pensioners looking for a fresh start are drawn to an advert for a hotel in the Indian city of Jaipur, and plan to spend their retirement there. They arrive to find the building dilapidated but are won over by the enthusiastic young manager, and each embarks on their own adventures in the city. Comedy drama, starring Judi Dench, Bill Nighy, Maggie Smith and Dev Patel.

10.25 Film: Robin Hood. (2010) An archer returning from the crusades faces a plot by a traitorous knight to bring about a French conquest of England. Medieval adventure, with Russell Crowe and Cate Blanchett.

2.00 (BST) Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. Part one of two. Gordon Ramsay visits Mill Street Bistro in Norwalk, Ohio, where he encounters a difficult owner who claims he has the best menu from New York to Los Angeles. (R) **2.50** The Last Leg. Singer-songwriter James Blunt joins Adam Hills, Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker for a comic review of the significant moments of the past seven days. (R) **3.50** Hollyoaks. Omnibus.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.30** Access. **10.35** On Benefits: Life on the Dole. (R) **11.30** On Benefits: Life on the Dole. (R) **12.30** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **1.30** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **2.30** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **3.30** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **4.30** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **5.30** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.25 NCIS. The first instalment of a two-part crossover with NCIS: New Orleans, in which the DC team co-operates with their Louisiana counterparts to catch a poisoner. (R)

7.10 NCIS: New Orleans. The final part of a crossover with the original NCIS series. Ellie Bishop heads to New Orleans to help Pride track down the person responsible for the aircraft murders. (R)

8.00 NCIS. The team suspects foul play when a seaman who was set to testify before a grand jury dies before he can make his court appearance. When it becomes clear the man was murdered, the subsequent investigation reveals that a previously thwarted human-trafficking ring has been re-established. Meanwhile, a storm causes a massive power outage, and McGee seeks a room for the night among his colleagues. Naval crime drama, starring Sean Murray.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 When Celebrity Goes Horribly Wrong. Contributors including Union J's Jaymi Hensley, Vanessa Feltz, Carole Malone, Adam Rickitt and Carol Decker recall the popstars, actors, comedians and even astronauts embroiled in everything from sex scandals to televised meltdowns. Unflattering episodes featured include Jimmy Carr's public shaming for tax avoidance, Naomi Campbell's blood diamond debacle, Justin Lee Collins's career-stopping harassment conviction and Leo Sayer's "clean pants" rant in the Celebrity Big Brother house. Plus, Dustin Diamond, of Saved by the Bell fame, reveals the truth behind his ill-judged sex tape and veteran newsreader Ed Mitchell describes how alcoholism left him homeless.

11.55 Access.

12.05 SuperCasino. **4.10 Film:** (BST) Beyond a Reasonable Doubt. (2009) **5.50** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Britain's Outlaws: Highwaymen, Pirates and Rogues **8.00** Timewatch: The Last Days of World War One **9.00** Follow the Money **11.00** Top of the Pops: 1983 **12.15** Blondie: One Way or Another **2.30** (BST) Blondie's New York and the Making of Parallel Lines **3.20** Big in America: British Hits in the USA **4.20** Sounds of the Eighties **4.50** Close

ITV2

11.35 Britain's Got Talent: Ant and Dec's Top 10 Moments **12.35** Take Me Out **1.50 Film:** Rumour Has It (2005) **2.50** FYI Daily **2.55 Film:** Rumour Has It (2005) **3.55** Mr Bean **5.05 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **6.05** FYI Daily **6.10 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **7.00** Scorpion **8.00 Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **9.00** FYI Daily **9.05 Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **10.00** Family Guy **10.30** Celebrity Juice Live **11.35** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **2.00** (BST) American Dad! **2.25** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

11.35 Inspector Morse **1.50** Hans Christian Andersen: My Life as a Fairy Tale **3.35** Rosemary & Thyme **4.40** A Touch of Frost **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Lewis **11.00** Rising Damp Forever **12.00** Wycliffe **2.05** (BST) ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

11.00 The Big Fish Off **12.00** Fishing Impossible **1.00** Pawn Stars **1.30** ITV Racing Live from Newbury and Kelso. Coverage of today's race meetings at Newbury and Kelso. **4.00** Pawn Stars **6.15** Fierce **7.25** World Cup Qualifier Live. Portugal v Hungary (Kick-off 7.45pm). **10.00** An Audience with Billy Connolly **11.05 Film:** Assassins (1995) **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15 Film:** Assassins (1995) **2.45** (BST) ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.00 Black-ish **1.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.00 Film:** Addams Family Values (1993) **4.00** The Goldbergs **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Prometheus (2012) **11.30** Gogglebox **12.35** Bizarre ER **2.35** (BST) Rude Tube **3.35** The Goldbergs **4.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **4.45** Melissa & Joey **5.05** Revenge

Film4

1.00 Paddington (2014) **2.50** City of Ember (2008) **4.40** Brewster's Millions (1985) **6.45** School of Rock (2003) **9.00** This Is England (2006) **11.05** Dead Man's Shoes (2004) **12.45** Daredevil (2003) **3.55** (BST) Close

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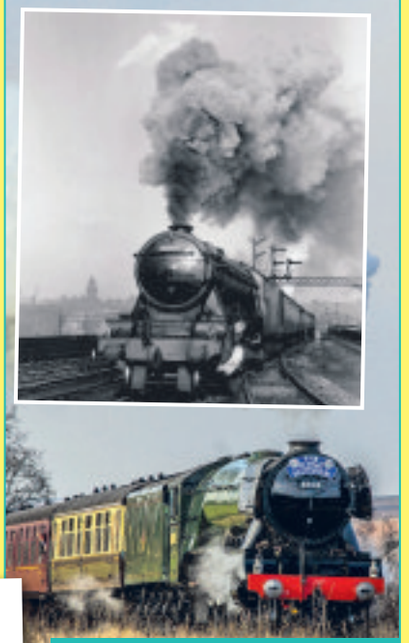

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CHOICE

Thandie Newton

Line of Duty (BBC1, 9pm)
New series. Thandie Newton stars in the fourth instalment of the crime drama as a detective on the trail of a serial killer. She is determined to catch the culprit as soon as possible and prove her worth to her superiors – but a colleague fears her efforts may have led to a miscarriage of justice, and alerts the AC-12 team to the situation. Jason Watkins, Lee Ingleby, Adrian Dunbar, Vicky McClure, Simon Millar, Elva Trill and Frank Cannon also star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Flog It! (R) **2.15** Countryfile Spring Diaries. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Songs of Praise. **4.35** Shop Well for Less? (R) **5.35** The Best of Red Nose Day.

6.35 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. This week's show comes from Denbighshire, where Matt baker meets one of the country's most successful sheep farmers while Ellie Harrison observes the spring mating rituals of grouse and goes in search of adders on the moorland. Sean Fletcher meets an artist who makes edible flowers, Adam Henson visits a college in Cumbria that provides a sheepdog training course, and Tom Heap examines the future of British farming. Including weather for the week ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Burton Constable Hall near Hull, which is home to a collection of treasures. Objects brought in to be valued include a ship's anchor that was found in a garden pond, a medal awarded to sailor for helping to recover Captain Scott's ship from the Antarctic in 1901, some 17th-century flat pack furniture, and a flimsy booklet that proved to be a profitable investment.

9.00 Line of Duty. New series. A detective is determined to bring a serial killer to justice and prove herself to her superiors – but her efforts may have led to a miscarriage of justice.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Film: Iron Man 3. (2013) The armoured avenger hunts for the mastermind behind an untraceable series of bombings, despite being cut off from his usual resources and traumatised by a recent brush with death. His search uncovers a secret conspiracy involving a drug that renders the user indestructible. Superhero adventure sequel, starring Robert Downey Jr.

12.30 The Celebrity Apprentice USA. **1.50** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.55** BBC News.

BBC2

6.45 An Island Parish. (R) **7.15** Around the World in 80 Gardens. (R) **8.15** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.45** Countryfile. (R) **9.45** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.15** Nigel Slater: Eating Together. (R) **11.45** Simply Nigella. (R) **12.15 Film:** The Importance of Being Earnest. (1952) Oscar Wilde comedy, starring Michael Redgrave. **1.45** Holiday of My Lifetime with Len Goodman. (R) **2.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.00** The House That £100K Built. (R) **4.00** Back to the Land with Kate Humble. (R) **5.00** Athletics.

6.00 Inside the Factory: Bicycles. Gregg Wallace explores the largest bicycle factory in Britain which produces 150 folding bike every 24 hours and joins a multi-stage manual production line to make his own bicycle. Meanwhile Cherry Healey gets some tips from Cycling Team GB to help us all improve our pedal power, including how lowering your body position can make a 10 per cent improvement to speed and efficiency. And historian Ruth Goodman reveals that folding bikes date back to the 1870s, and how 70,000 folding "parabikes" were manufactured during the Second World War, some of which played a role in the D-Day landings. (R)

7.00 Robot Wars. Dara O Briain and Angela Scanlon present the next stage of the contest, with robots Supernova, Frostbite, Wyrm, High 5, Crushtacean, Ironside 3, Pulsar, and Apex battling it out.

8.00 Top Gear. Chris Harris and Matt LeBlanc compete in a race across the Arabian peninsula, pitting a Bugatti Chiron against an assortment of other ways of travelling – with money no object.

9.00 Turkey with Simon Reeve. The first of two programmes in which the presenter explores the country that lies at the crossroads between Europe and Asia, and discovers the dramatic changes it is undergoing.

10.00 Film: Cold in July. (2014) Premiere. A man finds his life descending into chaos after being hailed as a hero for shooting a burglar in his home. Crime thriller, starring Michael C Hall.

11.45 Live at the Apollo. (R)

12.15 Film: Night Train to Lisbon. (2013) **2.00** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **3.00** Holby City. (R) **4.00** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors. **8.20** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.45** Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go! **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Countrywise: Guide to Britain. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **10.55** Wild Australia with Ray Mears. (R) **11.25** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **12.10** ITV News; Weather. **12.15** The Voice UK. (R) **2.05 Film:** Dr No. (1962) James Bond spy thriller, starring Sean Connery. **4.15** ITV News; Weather. **4.25** Live World Cup 2018 Qualifier. England v Lithuania (Kick-off 5.00pm).

7.30 You've Been Framed! Gold. Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring everything from giddy grandmas, cute kids and crazy animals to below-the-belt mishaps, practical jokers and painful-looking accidents. (R)

8.00 Vera. The detective is drawn into Newcastle's underworld to discover the identity of a murder victim found dead in the river, with no clue as to who he is apart from a distinctive drugs wrapper. She discovers the dead man had ties to some very dangerous people, many of whom may have wanted him dead, while a witness's testimony links the case to a remote farm where a murder took place 13 years previously. The connection brings Kenny's past back to haunt him, as he was responsible for seeing the perpetrator convicted.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 World Cup Qualifier Highlights. England v Lithuania. Action from the Group F clash between the countries at Wembley Stadium, where the teams played each other for the first time in this campaign.

11.30 The Nightly Show Best Bits.

12.00 Premiership Rugby Union. Action from the 18th round of fixtures. **12.55** Jackpot247. Interactive gaming. **3.00** The Cube. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. Guests air their differences. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **6.15** The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** Cycling: The Pioneer. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix Highlights. **4.40** The Restoration Man. (R) **5.45** Location, Location, Location. (R)

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Our Guy in China. Guy Martin explores Beijing, ignoring the tourist traps and following his own passions as he reveals a lesser-seen side of China. He meets families who live on a scrapyard and earn their livings by processing old cars and spends an afternoon helping out by operating the cranes and machinery, before visiting the hub of the market for rare and exotic supercar sales and assists in the building of what will be the tallest building in Beijing, the China Zun skyscraper. (R)

8.00 Rivers with Jeremy Paxman. The presenter travels along the Thames from its source in Gloucestershire to the Kent and Essex marshes, and delves into its history as a working river going back to the time of the Domesday Book. He meets people who maintain the river's locks and bridges, and work to manage flooding and deal with sewage. Last in the series.

9.00 Homeland. Carrie catches a break, Keane makes a plan and Max goes undercover. Drama, starring Claire Danes, Rupert Friend and Elizabeth Marvel.

10.05 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)

11.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. With Claudia Winkleman, Johnny Vegas, Reginald D Hunter and Sara Pascoe. Last in the series. (R)

12.00 Film: Grease 2. (1982) Musical sequel, starring Michelle Pfeiffer. **2.00** UK's Best Place to Live. Sarah Beeny reveals the United Kingdom's most desirable place to live. (R) **2.55** Great British Buildings: Restoration of the Year. Kevin McCloud and Anna Keay visit buildings up for the Restoration of the Year award. (R) **3.50** Building the Dream. **4.45** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **5.05** Fifteen to One. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.10** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.15** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **6.20** Paw Patrol. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.45** Fireman Sam. (R) **6.55** Rupert Bear. (R) **7.05** Olly the Little White Van. **7.10** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **7.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **7.35** Little Princess. (R) **7.50** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.30** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.00** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.25** Peppa Pig. **9.40** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **10.00** Digby Dragon. (R) **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.45 Film:** The Princess Bride. (1987) Comic fantasy adventure, starring Cary Elwes. **12.35 Film:** The Wizard of Oz. (1939) Musical fantasy, starring Judy Garland. **2.35 Film:** The Parent Trap. (1998) Comedy remake, starring Lindsay Lohan. **5.00 Film:** Dirty Dancing. (1987) Romantic drama, with Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey.

6.55 5 News Weekend.

7.00 Film: Michael Jackson's This Is It. (2009) Documentary following rehearsals for the singer's planned 50-night series of concerts at London's O2, immediately before his untimely death in 2009. Featuring interviews with Jackson, performances of classic hits including Billy Jean and Wanna Be Startin' Something, and an insight into the elaborate preparations for the shows that were never staged.

9.00 Michael Jackson: Man in the Mirror. Profile of the singer, following his development from child star with the Jackson 5 to becoming an iconic performer in his own right as an adult. The programme explores his difficult relationship with his family and makes the case that growing up in the public eye had a devastating psychological impact that he was never able to recover from.

11.05 Michael Jackson on Trial. The singer's 2005 trial for child molestation.

12.05 Kings of Pop. Bruno Brookes narrates a celebration of pop music's greatest male singers. **1.00** SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** All New Traffic Cops: Under Attack. An insight into the working life of officers patrolling Britain's roads. (R) **4.00** Criminals: Caught on Camera. Extreme situations. (R) **4.50** House Doctor. A Brixton flat. (R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Revolution and Romance: Musical Masters of the 19th Century **8.00** Stunning Soloists at the BBC **9.00** 6 Music 2017 Festival Highlights **10.30** The Secret Life of Bob Monkhouse **12.00** Timewatch: The Last Days of World War One **1.00** Tank Men **1.30** The Century That Wrote Itself **2.30** How to Get Ahead: At Renaissance Court **3.30** Close

ITV2

2.00 2Awesome: 2Awesome: Third Wheel **2.30** 2Awesome: 2Awesome: LA Story **2.45** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **4.15 Film:** Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) **5.15** FYI Daily **5.20 Film:** Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) **6.00** Catchphrase Mother's Day Special **7.00 Film:** Coyote Ugly (2000) **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30** The Cleveland Show **1.25** The Vampire Diaries

ITV3

11.50 Sherlock Holmes: The Hound of the Baskervilles **2.10 Film:** Anne of Green Gables (2015) **3.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs **9.00** It'll Be Alright on the Night **10.00** Rising Damp Forever **11.10 Film:** Rising Damp (1980) **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15 Film:** Rising Damp (1980) **1.10** Inspector Morse **3.00** May the Best House Win **4.40** On the Buses **5.35** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

1.40 Film: Bend of the River (1952) **2.40** FYI Daily **2.45 Film:** Bend of the River (1952) **3.30 Film:** The Horse Soldiers (1959) **4.30** FYI Daily **4.35 Film:** The Horse Soldiers (1959) **5.55** Fishing Impossible **7.00** The Big Fish Off **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00 Film:** Ransom (1996) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10 Film:** Ransom (1996) **11.25 Film:** Fire Down Below (1997) **12.25** FYI Daily **12.30 Film:** Fire Down Below (1997) **1.35** Goodwood Members Meeting **2.30** Hogan's Heroes **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen

E4

12.00 The Goldbergs **3.00** The Big Bang Theory **6.30 Film:** Iron Man 2 (2010) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00 Film:** The Adjustment Bureau (2011) **12.05** Tattoo Fixers **1.05** The Goldbergs **1.40** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.35** Gap Year **3.20** Melissa & Joey

Film4

1.00 Rango (2011) **3.05** Sherlock Holmes: Terror by Night (1946) **4.20** Inkheart (2008) **6.25** The Way Back (2010) **9.00** Ted (2012) **11.05** The Stag (2013) **12.55** Crazy Heart (2009)

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PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Fury, Channel 5, 11pm
A veteran American sergeant leads a tank crew on one final dangerous mission in the last months of the Second World War. The assignment takes the soldiers behind enemy lines and into battle with overwhelming enemy forces, while the presence of an inexperienced new recruit in the team raises tension. Drama, starring Brad Pitt and Shia LaBeouf. (2014)

TUESDAY
Amish Abduction, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A young Amish woman visits her cousin in Charm, Ohio for the summer, where she discovers another world and finds friendship. But she soon has to choose which life she wants. Drama, starring Trevor Donovan and Daniella Chuchran. (2015)

WEDNESDAY
Michael Jackson's This Is It, Channel 5, 11.05pm
Documentary following rehearsals for the singer's planned 50-night series of concerts at London's O2, immediately before his untimely death in 2009. Featuring interviews with Jackson, performances of classic and an insight into the elaborate preparations for the shows that were never staged. (2009)

Dirty Dancing, Thursday, Channel 5, 10pm

THURSDAY
Dirty Dancing, Channel 5, 10pm
A dance instructor at a 1960s resort hotel fears his career will be jeopardised when his regular partner is forced to pull out of an important show in which they are due to perform. Luckily, a naive teenager is happy to step in, and is treated to a whirlwind holiday education in life, love and expressing herself. Romantic drama, starring Patrick Swayze. (1987)

FRIDAY
Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides, BBC1, 10.35pm
Captain Jack Sparrow sets sail in search of the legendary fountain of youth. His mission puts him up against a mysterious woman from his past, old enemy Barbossa, now in the employ of the British Navy, and the most feared pirate of them all, the dreaded Blackbeard. Fantasy adventure sequel, with Johnny Depp and Penelope Cruz. (2011)

Rio gives a revealing insight into his personal life

Rio Ferdinand looked amazed when he sat down to address academics at Oxford Union a couple of years ago.

He'd spent nights worrying about the content of his speech, wondering if he had any common ground with the students. Then he realised they were all people that excelled in their field.

"I always knew from a young age that I wanted to be the best," he told them. So he set his sights on Man United, and wound up fulfilling his goal. Pun intended.

Fear of failure is what drove Rio on. From West Ham he moved to Leeds United "for a small amount of money" and became captain within a couple of months.

By the time he was playing at the World Cup in Japan, it was clear he'd impressed Alex Ferguson, who decided to take him to Manchester United.

Being an acclaimed footballer was a dream come true for Ferdinand. Little wonder his rags-to-riches story inspired many.

With a successful career and more than a few quid in the bank, he seemed to have it all, including a happy marriage to Rebecca and three kids, Lorenz, Tate, and Tia.

The couple had met while he was playing for West Ham United in the late 1990s. By 2009 they married in the Caribbean, and everything seemed perfect.

Then Rebecca received news that she had cancer; her life expectancy was believed to be between two and five years.

Alas the cancer was a lot more rapid and the family's world was turned upside down in May 2015 when she passed away, aged just 34.

In this moving documentary, Rio meets other families coping with bereavement, and looks at what help is available for parents and children who have experienced loss to move on with their lives.

"I don't think I've grieved properly," he explains. "I've not given myself that time to sit down and really flush everything out and go through it."

Here Rio explores ways of managing grief, including his own, and discovers the only way parents can help their kids move on with their lives is for them to begin to rebuild their own first.

Obviously Ferdinand is not alone; every day in the UK, around 75 men under 50 become widowers. This documentary offers viewers a broader insight into how young husbands and fathers cope with grief as the former soccer star speaks to other bereaved men who share their experiences.

By examining the issues around grief, the stigma men often face in displaying and discussing their emotions, and discovering some of the ways people cope with loss, the film highlights the other obstacles bereaved men have to overcome.

"Rio Ferdinand has courageously allowed the cameras to follow him in this revealing and immensely personal documentary exploring the complexities of grief," explains Alison Kirkham, the BBC's Controller of Factual Commissioning and Events.

Rio Ferdinand: Being Mum and Dad, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
The Repair Shop
BBC2, 6.30pm
We're often told we live in a disposable culture, where items are routinely thrown away and replaced, but it seems some people still know how to make do and mend. For this new series, a collection of skilled craftspeople, including furniture restorers, horologists, metal workers, ceramicists and upholsterers have been gathered together in once place to help bring broken or damaged family heirlooms back to life. Most of the objects come with a story attached, including the accordion featured in the opening episode, which belongs to a woman in her 90s who shares her memories of playing it during the Blitz. Other items featured over the series include a Davenport desk complete with fake drawers that fooled a burglar, and a pinball machine that currently doubles as a kitchen counter.

TUESDAY
Stargazing Live Australia
BBC2, 8pm
New series. Professor Brian Cox and Dara O Briain travel to Australia to explore the night skies, with the programme joining them as they finish a long night under the stars and as dawn approaches. Brian and Dara are joined by Liz Bonnin on a remote mountain top in New South Wales, site of the world-famous Siding Spring Observatory, and will have Australian outback-astronomer Greg Quicke as their guide to the southern sky, revealing some of the wonderful star-tales told by indigenous people.

WEDNESDAY
MasterChef
BBC1, 8pm
New series. John Torode and Gregg Wallace return to put 64 more amateur cooks to the test. The first eight hopefuls begin by creating a dish using ingredients chosen from the new 'MasterChef market', stocked full of produce from all over the world, including pork mince, halibut and pancetta. Only five contestants will survive the first round, and the remaining cooks are then challenged to prepare a two-course meal to secure a place in the quarter-final. The amateurs not only have to impress John and Gregg, but also the finalists of last year's MasterChef competition.

MasterChef, Wednesday, BBC1, 8pm

THURSDAY
Galapagos
BBC1, 9pm
Liz Bonnin and a team of boffins are hunting high and low for flora and fauna in this stunning new series. Located on the equator, the Galapagos is an archipelago where evolution has proceeded at a remarkable pace. However, with the climate changing fast, this tropical paradise is under threat. Ms Bonnin and assorted scientists team up for the most ambitious scientific expedition attempted in this remote region. Episode one sees Liz joining the scientific team aboard the research vessel the Alucia on an expedition across the Galapagos Archipelago. The trek starts on the Galapagos' west side at the youngest, most volcanically active islands in the archipelago, Isabela and Fernandina, home to a diverse wildlife scene.

FRIDAY
Unreported World
Channel 4, 7.30pm
A year has passed since decades of military dictatorship came to an end in Burma, and Aung San Suu Kyi began leading a new era of civilian government in the nation also known as Myanmar. However, the woman once hailed around the world is now being criticised for failing to bring real freedoms to many in the country, and the fighting against various rebel groups has intensified. Krishnan Guru-Murthy and director Karim Shah travel to the country to investigate whether its fledgling democracy can overcome such attacks.

Spectacular Spain with Alex Polizzi
Channel 5, 9pm
New series. The hotelier and presenter shares her passion for Spain's culture and people, and makes some new discoveries along the way. She begins in the north east, a region often overlooked by Brits, where she enjoys a luxurious cabernet grape body scrub, and is shown around an astonishing cellar full of ancient wines. Alex experiences the craziness of the San Fermin fiesta.

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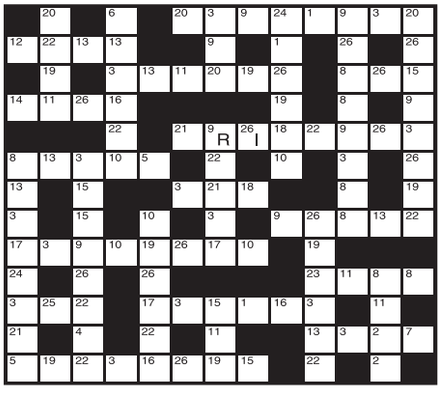
BRAIN GYM

No.422

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



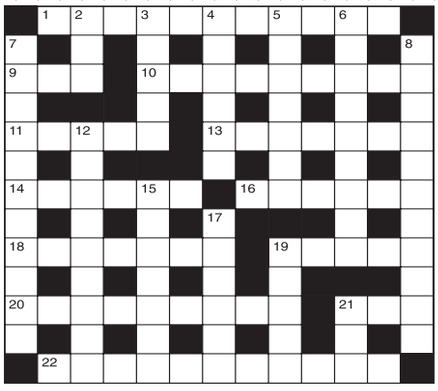
1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9 R	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26 I

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 C	2 T	3 W	4 I	5 D	6 M	7 H	8 S	9 K	10 E	11 X	12 O	13 F
14 B	15 J	16 N	17 A	18 U	19 P	20 V	21 G	22 R	23 Z	24 L	25 Y	26 Q

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Tool for making two propellers (11)
9. Frosty feeling - small whisky needed (3)
10. Valuer to omit rates, maybe (9)
11. Heavenly world tour! (5)
13. Race methods used by 17 (7)
14. The priests's area is bigger than European capital (6)
16. A shelf with right book (6)
18. Particular one found in different places (7)
19. See 20 Across
20 & 19Ac. In which the last ones are the winners! (9,5)
21. Draw a bond (3)
22. Suggestion for professional appointment (11)

Down

2. See 15 Down
3. Happening to be unruffled near the tee (5)
4. Sentimental old man taking Dorothy a little way (6)
5. Large dilapidated mines with me inside (7)
6. Sets Regan at variance with friends! (9)
7. Need to change navigational instrument inside when surrounded (11)
8. Kind of concrete, as emphasised before! (3-8)
12. Finish in swapping pub employee (9)
15 & 2Dn. The kind of drink one is saddled with? (7-3)
17. Quick transport from Naples (6)
19. Negotiate to give patient attention (5)
21. The end of the implement is missing as well (3)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Pardon (11)
9. Tavern (3)
10. Life (9)
11. Pale (5)
13. Perform (7)
14. Outcast (6)
16. Bombard (6)
18. Aperture (7)
19. Disburse (5)
20. Worsen (9)
21. Racket (3)
22. Sincere (4-7)

Down

2. Possess (3)
3. Corn (5)
4. Expressed (6)
5. Closest (7)
6. Incite (9)
7. Condemnation (11)
8. Free (11)
12. Herald (9)
15. Excite (7)
17. Disfigure (6)
19. Perpendicular (5)
21. Owing (3)

Sudoku

				8		6		
9	4		1					
			2	6		3		1
3		1			5		8	
	8			9			7	
	7		3		8	1		4
		3		1	2	7		
4					6		1	8
	1	5		7				

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

6	2	7	1	5	9	4	3	8
5	9	3	6	8	4	1	7	2
8	1	4	7	3	2	6	9	5
4	3	5	2	6	7	8	1	9
1	6	8	4	9	3	2	5	7
2	7	9	5	1	8	3	6	4
7	8	6	3	2	5	9	4	1
3	5	2	9	4	1	7	8	6
9	4	1	8	7	6	5	2	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Rose; 3 Sampling; 9 Chatter; 10 Sepia; 11 Infant school; 13 Elicit; 15 Impend; 17 Congratulate; 20 Idaho; 21 Tillage; 22 Dreaming; 23 West.
Down: 1 Receiver; 2 Staff; 4 Arrest; 5 Posthumously; 6 Improve; 7 Glad; 8 Standing room; 12 Adherent; 14 Isolate; 16 Carton; 18 Abase; 19 Hind.
QUICK - Across: 1 Cast; 3 Majestic; 9 Mourner; 10 Sepal; 11 Extravagance; 13 Divide; 15 Fillip; 17 Consultation; 20 Phase; 21 Valiant; 22 Creature; 23 Bear. Down: 1 Commends; 2 Spurt; 4 Airman; 5 Ecstatically; 6 Typical; 7 Colt; 8 Incandescent; 12 Spinster; 14 Violate; 16 Clever; 18 Irate; 19 Epic.

Quiz

1. From where did Amy Johnson take off on her 1930 solo flight to Australia?
2. Who assassinated Jacobin leader Jean-Paul Marat?
3. How is the extinct Raphus cucullatus better known?
4. To which family of instruments does the cor anglais belong?
5. What is the capital of Slovakia?
6. What do the letters AD stand for?
7. Where does the London Boat Race start?
8. What is a quetzal?
9. In which gulf is Prince William Sound?
10. Who is the muse of dance and choral song?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Graham Taylor; 2 Compton Mackenzie; 3 Prussia; 4 Cyprinidae; 5 Gerry Francis; 6 Gary; 7 African stringed instrument; 8 Dachshund; 9 Florence; 10 Swedish.

Niner: CLARINETS

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

74765423 gives an element,
2165423 gives a second element,
84597845423 gives a third element.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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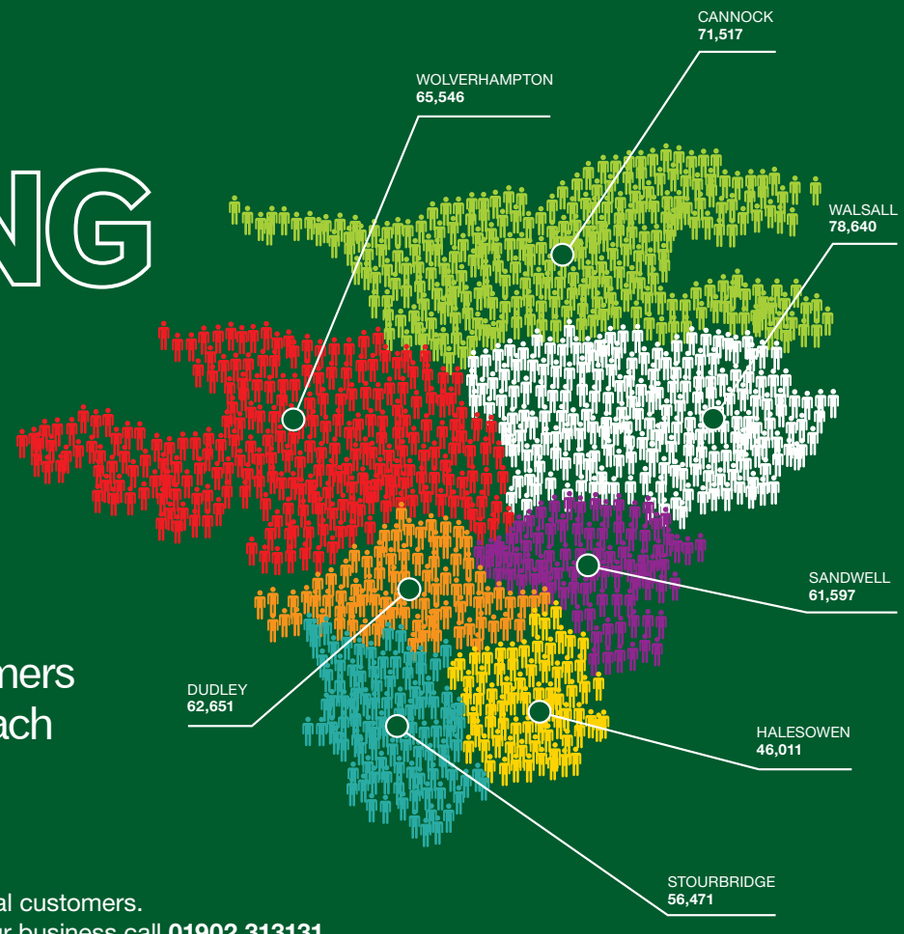

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Make a night of it

James Arthur is playing at the O2 Academy in Birmingham next Friday and it would be Impossible not to enjoy a big night out. The Ticket's got the lowdown on where to eat, drink and be merry. . .

Arthur and out – paint the town red before seeing James sing

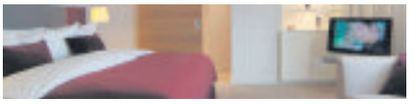
GRUB'S UP

The options are endless when you're in the heart of Brum. We reckon that James would happily head to Chinatown for some authentic cuisine. New Sum Ye in the Arcadian is a great place to try out. The restaurant is all about seasonal food using fresh ingredients full of colour and flavour. Try the crispy duck or the sizzling king prawn. It's a quick and easy pit stop to fuel up ready to dance your socks off and sing your heart out. If you fancy something really cheap, head to Mr Egg which is just the kind of place James would head to before some beers with the boys.

DRINKS ARE IN

It's a student hotspot with a real Indie vibe, so The Sunflower Lounge is the place to go for a few drinks before the gig. There's live music on tap so it's a good way to get you in the mood for the main event at the O2. Enjoy a cheeky drink or two upstairs and if you do fancy listening to some tunes head downstairs. Just round the corner is The Victoria which is a grand old pub with loads of character and a fantastic atmosphere. There are lots of wines, ales and cocktails on tap so it's perfect for getting the evening started in a right royal fashion.

CATCH SOME ZZS



SPLURGE SLUMBER

Go all out and book a room at The Radisson Blu and enjoy sleep time overlooking the city skyline. With its modern and contemporary design it's got serious 'wow' factor for a night away. It's over the road from The O2 Academy on Queensway so within stumbling distance before and after the gig. Rooms cost from £67.50. But you could push the boat out and get a suite with your mates and swan about in bathrobe and slippers while listening to all of James's top tunes from the iPod dock and stereo.

DISCOUNT DEAL

If all you need is a basic bed for the night, spare any expense by sleeping easy at the Hotel ibis budget. It's down the road from the O2 on Great Colmore Street, so you won't even need to get a cab. It offers comfort in simple surrounds with a variety of bed options (twin, double or triple) and there's an unlimited breakfast buffet too. From £35 it's an absolute dream price and you can catch some zzzs knowing you could afford another ticket to see James perform again.

GETTING THERE

TRAVEL TIME

As it's in the heart of the city centre it's easily accessible by car, train or bus. If you do decide to drive in, there are plenty of car parks near to the venue. They range in price from £1 to £5 for two hours. Or you can park further away and walk in. Catching the train is the best option as New Street station is a five to 10-minute walk from the O2 and trains run across the region. Buses into Birmingham come from all areas so if you live close by this could be a good option.

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Attractive and enhanced spacious family property

A meticulously maintained and tremendously enhanced detached family residence in exemplary order throughout, 55 Breamore Crescent, Earls Keep, Dudley, lies in the favoured Earls Keep development. It is positioned in a quiet location.

It is for sale through Taylors at £277,500.

With a new boiler installed, this home's outstanding accommodation includes a reception hall, a fitted cloakroom/WC, a store, an elegant lounge, a separate dining room, an upgraded kitchen and mainly integrated appliances and a utility room.

There are also four generous bedrooms, a principle bedroom with built-in wardrobes, a recently reappointed en-suite, bathroom, garage and a delightful, expertly tended, well-stocked sheltered rear garden with open aspect beyond.

In more detail, a canopy porch leads to the reception hall with an under-stairs store. The cloakroom/WC has a soft cream-coloured suite.

The front facing lounge has a bay window with blinds and an Adam-style over mantle with a marble-effect inset and hearth and a living flame gas fire. The formal dining room has French doors to the garden.

Being upgraded in 2015, the kitchen has extensive granite work surfaces, high gloss cream fronted wall and base units, integrated dishwasher and refrigerator, ceramic hob with fan assisted oven below and a stainless steel extractor hood above. The utility room has various units and a door to the outside.

Upstairs, bedroom one has two built-in double wardrobes and a re-appointed/re-tiled shower room with a contemporary suite. Bedroom two has a built-in double wardrobe, bedroom three is L-shaped, as is bedroom four.

The part-tiled bathroom has a marble tiled floor and a soft cream-coloured suite.

Outside is an integral garage and a delightful sheltered rear garden. It has a wide range of now well established traditional shrubs and plants, together with a shaped lawn having brick edge detailing. There is also a garden store and greenhouse.

EARLS KEEP £277,500

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KEY FEATURES

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- Favoured development

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Lovingly improved and extended property on imposing corner plot in extremely popular estate

Enviously situated on an imposing corner plot, this lovingly improved and extended property in Cowley Drive lies on the extremely popular Milking Bank development in Dudley.

New to the property market, the home is for sale through Taylors at £324,950.

This modern detached property has so much to offer and is an ideal family home, said a spokesman for the selling agent.

DUDLEY
£324,950

Having gas central heating and double glazing, the accommodation of this five-bedroom house also benefits from an entrance hall, a well-appointed transverse living room, a sitting/family room, a dining room, an attractive kitchen-diner, a good-sized utility room, a ground floor shower room, a master bedroom with an en-suite, a walk-in wardrobe to second bedroom and a fitted family bathroom.

Outside is a large driveway to the front with parking for ample vehicles and extensive enclosed side and rear gardens.

For further information, or to book that all important viewing to see if this is the house for you, please contact the selling agents, Taylors, on 01902 880888 or visit their website www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk

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CGI of The Lockwood 4 bedroom home at Avert Heights. Elevations and finishes may vary. *Help to buy available upon request subject to terms and conditions. †Calls cost 2p per minute plus your phone company's access charge.

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SEDGLEY, Sunningdale Road, Northway

ENVIABLY SITUATED with magnificent PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS a spacious EXTENDED & comprehensively refurbished/upgraded detached upon corner plot abutting onto fields comprising; hall, cloakroom, L shape 19'8 through living/dining room with double doors through to CONSERVATORY, extended/recently refitted 18'10" x 16'4" dining kitchen, den/ snug off and utility room. THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS, bathroom, extensive grounds. EPC: D SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £300,000

LOWER GORNAL, Straits Road

REMARKABLY SPACIOUS! Principal house (1,750 sqft approx.), Large garage (300sq ft) with FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOMS and set within walking distance of village, this is a wonderful spacious family home. Gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed accommodation provides; hall, fitted cloaks, two reception halls (formerly separate rooms), Hugh through breakfast kitchen and utility room. Four generous bedrooms, bathroom. DOUBLE GARAGE/LARGE CARPORT/GATED PARKING, gardens. EPC: D SEDGLEY

PRICE: £299,950

UPPER GORNAL, Harvest Close

Superbly presented semi-detached property located in Upper Gornal. Benefitting from a TWO STOREY EXTENSION to the side, this good-sized family home also boasts; porch, guest W/C, living room, attractive kitchen-diner, large garage with utility, FOUR BEDROOMS with EN-SUITE TO MASTER, bathroom, garden, parking and garden to front, gas central heating and double glazing. VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMEND. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in excess of £174,950

DUDLEY, Breamore Crescent, Earls Keep

A gas centrally heated, UPVC double glazed detached residence in exemplary order upon favoured Earls Keep development. Accommodation includes hall, cloak room, store, lounge, separate dining room, upgraded kitchen with granite work surfaces and many integrated appliances, utility room. Four generous bedrooms, en suite, bathroom, garage, delightful rear garden. EPC Rating D SEDGLEY

New price WAS £279,950NOW £277,500

PENSETT, Stonefield Drive

A BEAUTIFUL DETACHED FAMILY HOME which enjoys a GENEROUS CORNER POSTION, within a sought after development, featuring a LARGE SUNNY REAR GARDEN, Spacious Conservatory, and FOUR GOOD BEDROOMS, master bedroom with REFITTED ENSUITE SHOWER ROOM and a LARGE DRIVEWAY EPC TBA

£230,000

WOODSETTON, Calder Rise

Attractive, meticulously maintained, freehold, gas centrally heated, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED Detached in short favoured cul-de-sac. Comprising: Reception hall, fitted cloakroom, lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen with a fine range of units and integrated appliances, three bedrooms, re-appointed shower room (former bathroom) lengthy garage with extensive parking, landscaped 'low maintenance' rear garden. EPC: C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £215,000

KINGSWINFORD, Bartic Avenue

This OUTSTANDING TWO BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED BUNGALOW with CONSERVATORY enjoys a sought after cul-de-sac with a LARGE DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and a beautifully laid out private rear garden. A position which certainly enhances the IMMACULATE and BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED accommodation. EPC D

£192,500

LOWER GORNAL, Oakland Drive

Well maintained SEMI DETACHED located in the desirable area of LOWER GORNAL & benefiting from gas central heating & double glazing, this EXTENDED property also boasts hall, living room, dining area, conservatory, breakfast-kitchen, integral garage, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, delightfully tended enclosed rear garden, good-sized driveway and garden to front. VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. EPC C SEDGLEY.

WAS £190,000...NOW £184,950

WOODSETTON, Pool Street

Conscientiously maintained, gas centrally heated (combi boiler),double glazed & cavity wall insulated detached with LARGE GARAGE (opposite). Presented in exemplary order, accommodation includes; hallway, inner hall, cloakroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen with integrated oven, hob and extractor. Three bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, Extensive loft. Block paved drive, magnificent rear garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £170,000

PENSNETT, The Plantation

Enjoying an open front outlook, this BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED SEMI DETACHED HOUSE offers a GENEROUS layout, which includes two double bedrooms (originally three bedrooms, easily converted back if preferred). With Block Paved Driveway, Side Garage and a private rear garden. EPC E

£169,950

LOWER GORNAL, Bird Street

Spacious, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached bungalow nearing completion. ENVIABLY SITUATED within reasonable walking distance of the village & comprising; entrance vestibule, hall, kitchen with various integrated appliances, living/dining room, two bedrooms, bathroom. Off road parking to front, brick store. PLANS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT AGENT'S SEDGLEY OFFICE.

Offers in the region of £165,000

PENSNETT, Tansey Green Road

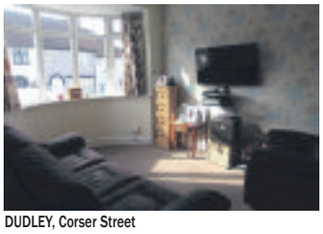
Within this exclusive cul de sac section of this sought after address, this MODERN TWO BEDROOM MID TERRACE HOUSE offers a well presented layout including a CONSERVATORY, plus an ALLOCATED PARKING SPACE and a landscaped low maintenance garden. EPC C

New price **£127,950**

WOODCROSS, Beacon Street

Situated on periphery of Sedgley (just off Bath Street), a tremendously modernised, Freehold, gas centrally heated & double glazed intermediate "starter home" that has been much enhanced by present vendors comprising; lounge, refitted breakfast kitchen with a fine range of "cherrywood" effect units. Two bedrooms, bathroom with a white suite. Secluded rear garden, off road parking. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £119,950



DUDLEY, Corser Street

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Well presented terrace property ●within walking distance of Milking Bank Schools?● which benefits from entrance porch, living room, good-sized kitchen-diner, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, central heating and double glazing, enclosed spacious rear garden and parking to front. EPC: D SEDGLEY

New price WAS £119,950, NOW £114,950

COSELEY, Dalwood Close, Bramford estate

NO UPWARD CHAIN, Situated on a corner plot on the popular 'Bramford Estate' this semi -detached property has huge potential. Benefitting from porch & hall, two reception rooms, kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, shower room, detached garage, drive and gardens to front & rear. EPC: ●●●BEST & FINAL OFFERS TO BE RECEIVED BY 12.00 MIDDAY ON FRIDAY 24TH MARCH 2017. ●●● CASH BUYERS ONLY. EPC:D SEDGLEY

Offers in excess of £99,950

TIPTON, Chatwins Wharf

A fantastically situated semi-detached bungalow on an over 55s development and within walking distance of Tipton train station and Tipton shopping precinct. This well-appointed property benefits from entrance porch, living room, kitchen, shower room, TWO BEDROOMS, centrally heated and double glazed with communal gardens. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £94,950

WOODSETTON, Regent Street

EXCEPTIONALLY WELL PRESENTED - Meticulously maintained gas centrally heated UPVC double or single glazed first floor flat in quiet 'backwater'. Tremendously enhanced by present vendors the accommodation provides; hall (incorporating caravan style seating which will convert into a temporary double bed), lounge (with living flame feature gas fire), refitted kitchen, double bedroom (with two double wardrobes), retiled shower room (former bathroom). Shared grounds. EPC C SEDGLEY

New price WAS £70,000,NOW £68,000

WOODSETTON, Park Road

IDEAL 'BUY-TO-LET' OPPORTUNITY! (Property vacant but past rentals between £450.00 and £515.00 per calendar month). A gas centrally heated UPVC double glazed first floor flat (above retail premises) in convenient established district. Accommodation provides hall, living room, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £45,000

Dudley Chronicle Thursday, March 23, 2017

Smart and versatile in all conditions

By Sharon Walters

AUDI A4 ALLROAD QUATTRO 3.0 TDI TIPTRONIC, FROM £39,645

Just occasionally you may have the need to take your everyday compact executive saloon off well-surfaced roads and on to something a little less smooth. And then there are the times when the well-surfaced roads become a little unfriendly when covered in mud, floodwater, ice or snow.

Which is exactly when you need the security of perhaps the best car to cope with those situations and provide the services you require – the Audi A4 allroad quattro.

A car that's more than smart enough for business, will also do very well carrying the family around and be sure-footed enough to deal with muddy tracks and fields and those slippy winter roads.

And backing up that opinion are the awards for the A4 including 2017 Fleet World Awards for Best Compact Executive and one of the Best Cars in the World for Big Miles from the BBC Top Gear Magazine.

Fleet World judges said the A4 range was a revolution in its segment and while Top Gear drivers may well push cars to extremes they would never see in normal life, they praised the car's polish as well as performance.

And my week behind the wheel certainly fully tested what the allroad can offer.

My test car was the 3.0 TDi tiptronic which starts at £39,645 on-the-road.

Extras added to it took that cost up to just over £56,000 and made it a very luxurious compact. But in all reality half of those extras would have been enough for me and are good value if you can pay the bill.

The engine is smooth and sophisticated and despite its size incurs annual tax of £145, not a lot when you consider the price of the car – that's down to meeting Euro 6 and its 146 CO2 emissions.

The impressive award-winning A4

And the gearbox and effortless dream.

All that sophistication comes with front and rear suspension set-up that absorbs and controls almost everything thrown it from potholes to muddy ruts.

Plus you can optimise comfort by adding Adaptive Comfort Suspension with damping control or the Adaptive Sport Suspension which gives even better refinement and even better cornering stability. The allroad has fantastic ride quality and passengers easily fall asleep, as I discovered!

I had the 18 inch alloys which reduce fuel consumption but not a lot compared to the standard 17s and I averaged close to 50mph on combined driving.

It will get from 0-62mph in 5.5 seconds when you need it and had plenty of oomph when you needed it for overtaking and for pushing through winding country lanes and through the Scottish Highlands.

Feeling safe – the Audi A4 allroad quattro is perhaps the best car to adapt to all kinds of road conditions and surfaces

It has a slightly more rugged look than the standard A4 with plastic body cladding on the wheelarches, sills and roof rails plus metallic skidplates front and rear. And there's a raised ride height which greatly helped me on some rutted forest roads. Inside it has a quiet and comfy cabin and so much technical gadgetry in the Audi virtual cockpit, it's difficult to get round it all . . . standard kit includes the Audi Smartphone Interface with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto plus my extras included the Bang & Olufsen 3D sound system (£975) which makes my home system sound as though it comes from the 90s, an advanced parking assistance pack £1,350 and a special technology pack £2,000 adding even more to the standard specification.

One other extra that I really enjoyed was the panoramic sunroof (£1,250) which flooded the cabin with light and made it feel very light and airy.

SsangYong sales drive is moving into second gear

The ELX is the only version with the six-speed auto box

By John Griffiths

SsangYong is another of Korea's car makers which is increasingly making in-roads into the European car market.

It has a long history of making 4x4 vehicles – including Jeeps for the US military in the 1960s – so with the current surge in demand for SUVs the company has never had a better opportunity. It has responded with the launch of the Tivoli (in standard and long wheelbase versions) which is a strong competitor in the compact SUV sector, particularly in terms of value for money.

Now the larger Korando has had a welcome upgrade, and with prices from £16,250 – admittedly for a front wheel drive only model – it's again the value card which makes it worth a serious look.

The biggest change is the adoption of a larger, 2.2 litre turbo diesel across the range with 178bhp. Like its 2.0 litre predecessor, it's a Mercedes unit as are the gearbox choices – six-speed manual or automatic.

All but the two cheapest versions come with four-wheel drive. It's a "torque on demand" system whereby power is diverted to the back if the electronics detect any slippage at the front. It's more common than the

The interior is capable of accommodating five adults

traditional transfer box system but actually effective on slippery roads (or off them, come to that).

The official fuel average is 53.3mpg (138g/km) for the two-wheel drive versions, and 48.7mpg (152g/km) for the four wheel drive manual.

The test car was the £22,750 ELX, which is the only version available with the six-speed auto box. Official fuel consumption falls to 41.5mppg (I managed 36) with a CO2 emissions figure of 177g/km.

The autobox is fast and responsive so the Korando has no problem tackling the 0 to 62mph sprint in under 10 seconds. It is equally impressive in terms of in-gear acceleration and on the Korando can be switched from eco to power to winter modes at the touch of a button.

Ride comfort and noise levels are improved on this latest model, too. The suspension is, of necessity for off-road forays, fairly bulky and firm, but those familiar with 4x4s of even a decade ago will be surprised by how well the Korando handles on the road.

While in size terms it's not in the Discovery league, the Korando's size, price tag and equipment levels makes it highly competitive when considered against rival SUVs, particularly when in many cases you have to go for a top of the range version to get four-wheel drive at all.

The interior is roomy and practical, easily capable of accommodating five adults and 480 litres of luggage (that increases to 1,312 litres with the rear seats folded). Roof rails are standard, too.

One of the reasons for the Korando's low price is the fact that it's not one but three vehicles – it also comes as a van and a pick-up. But you can see where other cost-savings have been made in the interior plastics although SsangYong has made an attempt to improve the ambience with the use of different shades and textures.

That's not necessarily a criticism as it has some advantages in addition to keeping prices down. For example, if you want a working vehicle, or if you carry dogs, for example, it's an awful lot easier to keep clean.

Rear parking sensors (a camera on the ELX), tyre pressure monitoring, fog lights, LED running lights, front, side and curtain airbags, electronic stability programme, hill start assist and anti-rollover protection are also standard. All versions have power-operated folding (and heated) mirrors, cruise control and a heated windscreen.

All but the basic models have a seven-inch touch screen controller, with Bluetooth connectivity and satnav, atop the centre console and the audio controls are duplicated as thumb switches on the steering wheel. SsangYong has been attempting to make an impact on UK and European markets since the early 1990s, when it signed up to a technology partnership with Mercedes-Benz. It's fair to say it's been an uphill struggle, but with competent and highly competitive new models like the Tivoli and now the latest Korando, it seems like the company's sales drive is now, at the very least getting into second gear.

DUDLEY MOTOR COMPANY DUDLEY MOTOR COMPANY

2010 10 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA CDTi AUTO 5-dr, Sat Nav, Auto, Full Leather, 56,000 miles £6,495

2007 57 MERCEDES E200K ELEGANCE, Saloon, Auto, Black, 69,000 miles £6,995

2008/08 KIA PICANTO 1.1 ICE Silver, Petrol, Manual, 5-dr, Hatchback, 9,731 miles £4,395

2007 07 JAGUAR S-TYPE 3.0SE Saloon, Auto, Silver, 55,000 miles £5,790

2016 16 ABARTH 595 3500 TURBO 150PS White, 3k £11,495

2015/15 MERCEDES BENZ GLA 200 CDI CLASS 4 Matic Sport Diesel, Auto, 26,000 miles, Grey, 5-dr Estate £24,995

2007/07 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2i LIFE AC, Silver, Petrol, 5-dr, 27,243 miles £4,495

2014/63 PEUGEOT 107 1.0 ACCESS 3-dr, Red, Petrol, Manual, 3-dr, Hatchback, 40,564 miles £4,750

2014/64 NISSAN JUKE 1.6 VISIA Petrol, Manual, 5-dr Hatchback, Grey, 14,000 miles £9,495

2015 65 VAUXHALL CORSA VXR 1.6 TURBO 3-dr, White, 15,000 miles £13,495

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11/11 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA ELITE NAV AUTO CDTi 5-dr, Blue, Leather, 57,000 miles £7,995
14/14 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 EXCITE 5-dr, White, 36,000 miles £7,495
15/15 VAUXHALL ADAM 1.2 JAM Red, 10,000 miles £7,995
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13/63 VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC 1.4 SRi Turbo. Black, 20,000 miles £8,995
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One of the Leading Roofing Companies
No Job too Small, No Job too Big
- Gutters Cleaned From £15
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SPECIAL OFFERS
on all UPVC Fascias, Gutters, New Roofs/Slate Tile & Felt and Garage Roofs.
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1 Family

elderly & disabled

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MOBILITY SCOOTERS from £350 can deliver, servicing available. Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01384 255019 / 07831 246292.

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

jewellery & watches

WANTED OLD GENTS WRIST WATCHES

All makes and models.

Working or broken.

Telephone 07979 020256.

2 Leisure Time

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OPEN EVERY WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY
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Please Call
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Lee Jinks on 07740 895448
www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk

DOREMA QUATTRO porch awning. 380cm x 240cm, as new, still boxed. £595. o.n.o. Cost New over £800. 01902 783174.

COSALT CAPRI SUPER 28x12, 5brth, £12k inc decking & site fees, vgc, great site mid-Wales, pool, tennis, fishing. Please call June 07446 298 661

LET US SELL YOUR CARAVAN/ Motorhome for you and get the best possible price. Severn Valley Leisure, DY8 4HP. 01384 390183

SWIFT CHALLENGER 530

Four berth, new battery, new tyres, built in microwave, water carriers, waste carrier, two locks, large end bathroom, full cooker, Motormover, excellent condition, reluctant sale due to ill health,

£6,995 ono.

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RARE OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE TOP NOTCH OPTICS.

Leica apo 77 angled scope with wide field eyepiece + case + manfrotto tripod. + Leica 8 x 20 trinovid binoculars with case.

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holidays

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what's on

antique fairs

ANTIQUE & COLLECTORS FAIR Every month. Codsall Village Hall. Sunday 26th March 9am-3pm. Call Brian: 07923 538178.

auctions

AUCTION
At Kingswinford Royal British Legion, DY6 9JG
Tuesday, March 28, 2017.
Viewing starts 7pm.
Sale at 7.30pm.
Free entry. All proceeds in aid of The Poppy Appeal.

3 Home & Services

collectables & memorabilia

COLLECTION of diecast toys, dinky, corgi, vanguard, lledo, matchbox, days gone, atlas, editions, prices from £1. 07548 684497.

furniture

IKEA HEMNES double bed frame, black/brown £125. Also 2 seater fabric sofa coffee colour, £175. perfect condition. 07976 569866.

TWO SEATER cane conservatory suite, brown and beige, excellent condition, buyer collects, £100. Telephone 01384 259117.

household appliances

POLAR CATERING fridge, upright, stainless steel, cost £1000, take £360. 01902 750609.

in your garden

A LANDSCAPING & GARDEN SERVICE
Regular Garden Maintenance.
Fencing supplied & fitted.
Jungles cleared & restored.
Garden tidy-ups. New lawns laid.
Paving, Hedge Cutting. Free estimates.
01902 683607 or 07939 634708

HAYTER HARRIER 41, electric key start petrol mower, good condition, starts first time, serviced, £80. 07909 995945.

items for sale

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

BOSCH GS50

Silent cyclinder vacuum cleaner with attachments, as new, hardly used, 12 months Manufacturers guarantee, **retail price £269, sell £120 ono.**

07969 175778.

items wanted

ALL GOLD 9CT £300 PER OUNCE
CASH PAID TODAY
No amount is too small
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft •Lladro • Old coins
• WATCHES • COSTUME JEWELLERY
• Diamonds and Gold Coins • Clocks • Paintings
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01922 495066 or 07971 783206

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS
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thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

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In any condition, top prices paid.

Please call Ken anytime on 07984 047597.

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

RECORDS WANTED
50's, 60's, 70's, Rock, Punk, Rock / Roll, Jazz / 90's Indie. Collections bought. Music Memorabilia, Promo Posters, autographs, etc, etc. Top prices paid.
Telephone 07966 252439.

SPECTRUM GAMES Wanted, plus any Spectrum 128k +2 computer wanted also any old Crash magazines wanted. 01902 892918.

kitchens & bathrooms

EIGHT UNIT cherrywood kitchen, complete with sink, taps, integrated cooker and hood, absolute bargain £500 ono. 07811 925743.

KITCHEN UNITS

French oak kitchen units as shown in photo. Very good condition, excellent quality. Buyer to collect.

£800 ono.

07765 241012.

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST Any TV Repairs, Plasma, LED etc, CCTV cameras supplied & fitted. Any area. Free Estimates. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS

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Bill - TV Link

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specialists at your service

aerials

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"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

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THE ORIGINAL AERIAL SPECIALIST, THE BEST!
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Recommended by thousands
Genuine, honest, 100% reliable
WE HAVE WATCHED THEM ALL COME AND GO
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alarms/security

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All aspects of building work including: Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping.
Discounts offered.
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domestic cleaning

CLEAN FOR YOU (midlands ltd)
Domestic Cleaning & Ironing Service.
Friendly, Reliable & Trustworthy.
Call Anita on: 07854 163 804.

domestic repairs & services

SAME DAY Low Cost Repairs. Washers, Dryers Electric Cookers. 12 mths guarantee. 07850 355552.

drain clearance

ALL DRAIN AND SEWER Blockages cleared fast. Call Fast Clean: 01902 736424.

driveways & patios

CRETE BY DESIGN
Concrete Imprinting
• BLOCK PAVING • TARMACING
FREE QUOTES
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or 01902 604187 (eve)

LONG LAST DRIVES
Block Paving, Resin Bound Driveways, Tarmacing, Concrete Imprint and Fencing.
5 YEAR GUARANTEE AND 10 YEARS EXPERIENCE.
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driveways/patio cleaning

LOW COST DRIVEWAYS AND POWER WASHING
NO CASH UPFRONT!
Old driveways restored or built from scratch
Driveways powerwashed, Block paving re sanded & sealed, exterior walls and all hard surface areas.
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ALL HOME ELECTRICS NAPIT registered. Fully insured. For a free quote call 07583 320318.

fencing

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SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards £695
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
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DELIVERY AVAILABLE
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All areas covered.
J&E Heating.
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07761 973975
READERS ARE ADVISED

To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.

It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

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A*1 GUTTERING
cleaned, repaired, replaced, facias/ soffits, UPVC washdowns, all roofing/ repointing work. Free quotes, 8am-8pm
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All work guaranteed, Most trades covered. References available on request. No job too big or too small!
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0121 6010479

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A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

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painters / decorators

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City & Guilds
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Free Quote
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Reliable & Friendly, Professional
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For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle.
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BUILDING Plans: Prepared/submitted. K J Bradley 01902 373248 07792 165767. www.plans4u.co.uk

plastering

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING Services. Home/Garden Improvements.Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

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plumbers

G M PLUMBING SERVICES Complete Bathrooms, Kitchens, Taps Showers,Blockages 07976 012468

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Full heating systems £2200
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25% OFF SF ROOFING & GUTTERING
25 YEARS EXPERIENCE!
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BEAT ALL QUOTES GUARANTEED
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A CHEAPER REMOVAL
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL REMOVALS.
FULLY INSURED. 7 days.
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FREE QUOTES
Student/OAP Discounts

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CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN, Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 701943, 07899 635852.

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12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
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Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
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roofing

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FOR 1 MONTH ONLY
GET YOUR FLAT ROOF REPLACED WITH FIBREGLASS FOR THE SAME PRICE AS A FELT ROOF & GUARANTEED FOR 25 YEARS
(Felt only 10 year guarantee)
Family Business est 30 Years
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07904 736165

showers

SHOWERS
Supplied/Fitted
Replaced/Repaired
Bath to Shower Conversions
Call James for a FREE quote.
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upholstery

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS

"I am very happy with my Express & Star and Chronicles Advertising Campaign"
Gary Downes - Bilston Upholstery
For great business results call
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ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

AT BILSTON UPHOLSTERY Your suite re-upholstered / repaired or cleaned. Free Est: 01902 404698.

UPHOLSTERY SERVICES 3pcs/ springs/caravans/pubs/club/antiques. 01902 689844 / 07817 842980.

skip hire

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS

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It definitely works for us!"
Grinsells Skip Hire.
For great business results call
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ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

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Fast, friendly service
All areas covered
All sizes
Same day service
Freephone
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AN ABSOLUTE AFFORDABLE CASTLE SKIP HIRE
Mini, midi and large skips
GRAB HIRE AND MINI DIGGER AVAILABLE
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MT SKIPS & GRAB HIRE
Save £££s
SCRAP CARS REMOVED FOR FREE
All size skips and all areas covered
Same day delivery faster than a phone call!!!
Open 7 days a week
07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 56

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH! No Skips, we load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 35 years, 01384 232359.

STONES SKIP HIRE 0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875 www.stonesskiphire.co.uk

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

AIR GUNS, VINTAGE/ ANTIQUE GUNS, SHOT GUNS, TAXIDERMY- BIG BORE GUNS, TRAPS ETC WANTED. MATCH AIR RIFLES WANTED.
07968 624202

pets corner

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, innoculated and microchipped.
Call 01922 412212 or
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NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

AMERICAN COCKER Spaniel, 1 dogs, very loving and cute, ready to go now, vaccinated, microchipped, wormed, Mom and Dad can be seen. £450. 07974 749908.

WANTED Nice friendly dog, for company for myself and Retriever. Prefer Lab/Retriever or 1st X. Good home assured. 07970 485491.

5 Business & Farming

business directory

accountants

ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES for Small Business. Competitive Rates. Call 01902 882600

plant, machinery & tools

R AND J SITE SERVICES LTD
Grab Hire, Plant Hire Groundwork and all types of aggregates.
Anywhere in the Midlands.
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commercial premises

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plant, machinery & tools

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When a Niftylift 120t will do the job!
from £50 +VAT per day!*
Suitable for Trade & DIY
Hire . Sales . Training . Service
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*minimum one week hire
facelift call us on 0121 313 07 77

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

7 Jobs

courses

building & construction

PAINTERS REQUIRED Immediate start Must have CSCS card and full PPE Tel 07973 631174.

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

HONDA CIVIC EX 1.6, 52,, 5dr, black, leather interior, full electrics, July MoT, £725.ono 07930 374986

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King Charles I School
Comberton Road
Kidderminster DY10 1XA
Tel: 01562 512880

CLEANERS

We are seeking to appoint two enthusiastic and committed people to join our friendly team of cleaners. The positions involve cleaning and maintaining the school premises to a high standard with direct responsibility for designated areas. The posts are for: term time weekdays only plus 34.02 banked hours to be worked during the school holidays as directed by the Site Manager; 12.5 hours per week: 3.30pm until 6.00pm each day; salary scale 1 (£4,342 per annum).

King Charles I School is a well-resourced 11-18 school with a sixth form. Our students are enthusiastic, talented and keen to succeed. If you are too, we would like to hear from you.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful candidate will be required to undertake an Enhanced Disclosure via the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Further information and an application form are available on the school website (www.kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk). The completed form should be emailed or posted to the school by 10.00am on Tuesday 28th March. We intend to interview during the week beginning Monday 3rd April.

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EXCELLENT CONDITION
AUDI TT QUATTRO COUPE 1.8 TURBO
2000, Devon blue, 134K, with FSH, full MoT, many new parts, clean car, ring for details.
£1,975 ono
01922 405640 / 07901 951353.

EXCELLENT CONDITION
CITROEN BERLINGO
2010, FSH, MoT, 5 seats, hoist for wheelchair / scooter, low mileage 24,000, new tyres fitted,
£5,500 ono.
01902 738296.

LOW MILEAGE
FORD FIESTA 1.25 EDGE
3dr, petrol, 61 reg, air con, radio, electric windows, remote locking, FSH, genuine 5,400 miles, 1 elderly owner no longer driving, excellent condition, MoT till August 31.
£4,800 ono.
07836 505163.

MINI COOPER CONVERTIBLE
2004, 71,000 miles, black, electric windows, electric mirrors, air con, alarm, MoT, cruise control, multiplay CD.
£2,500 ono.
07958 400177.

PEUGEOT PARTNER
2010, 7,153 Miles, red, abs, electric windows, air bag, air con, fsh, alarm, MoT, long MoT, wheelchair acess vehicle with electric winch, 2 owners.
£4,500
01562 754127.

LOW MILEAGE
RENAULT CLIO 1.2
Silver, 3dr, 2007, 28,000 miles, fsh, 12 months MoT, excellent condition.
£2,700.
07376 727285.

LOW MILEAGE
RENUALT CLIO INITIALE 1.6 VVT 111
2006. 5 door. Hatchback. Champagne. Leather interior. Alloys. Tinted windows. Climate control. Cruise/ Speed control. E/W, E/M, CD radio. 36,000 miles. MoT'd. FSH. Rare model.
£2,750.
01384 401209/07739 837137.

VAUXHALL CORSA SRI, 1.4SRI, 2012, 30,000 miles, red, fsh, MoT, many extras including cruise control, must be seen, £5,549. 07801 814659.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

LOW MILEAGE
FORD KA 1.3 COLLECTION
54 reg, 10 months MoT, 37,000 genuine miles, good condition,
£495 ono.
07890 706042.

4X4
ISUZU TROOPER 4 X 4 3.1 DIESEL
M Reg., MOT 2018, 116,000 miles, excellent all round condition, very reliable, some service history.
£1,450 ono
07855 392468.

EXCELLENT CONDITION
JAGUAR X-TYPE
2004, gun metal grey, 65,000 miles, MoT'd, excellent condition.
£1,200 ono
07986 736203.

NISSAN QASHQAI NTEC, 45,000 miles, 2009, 1600cc, FSH, 2 previous owners, MoT and Nissan warranty until end of May, sat nav etc. Good condition
£6,500 ono
Telephone 07531 848000.

ROVER 25
1600, 52 plate, very low mileage, 29,000 miles, semi automatic, MoT Aug, new timing belt fitted, cream interior, lady owner, excellent condition, very well looked after, first to see will buy.
£800.
07905 046744.

FOR A QUICK SALE
SUBARU LEGACY GX
Y Reg, no brakes, spares or repair.
£300 o.n.o.
07850 742388.

LOW MILEAGE
VAUXHALL CORSA ENERGY 1.2
3Dr, 54 Reg., finished in silver, only 57k, 11 months MoT, superb condition.
Only £995.
07963 464780.

VW GOLF TDI
1.9, 2000, 145,000 Miles, silver, electric windows, air bag, MoT, metallic paint, central locking, pas, diesel, sunroof. family owned from new
£995 ono
07930474063

classic cars

WANTED, CLASSIC Cars. Private cash buyer.Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

commercial vehicles

BARGAIN VANS small - large £995-£5995 inc vat 12mth MoT & service 01902 451877 / 07944 640999

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Manual & Automatic
Free Unlimited Theory
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www.driveallseasons.co.uk

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motorbikes

HONDA NC 700CC
Automatic, 2013, MoT March 2018, just serviced, only 8,400 miles, full luggage including two panniers and back box, excellent condition.
£3,950. o.n.o.
01902 783174.

SUZUKI GN125 E
2008, one owner, 7,000 miles, red and chrome, very good condition.
£1,200 o.n.o.

HONDA 70 STEP THROUGH
1980, 2 owners, red and cream, 5,800 miles, top box, etc, very good condition.
£950. o.n.o.
Can deliver.
07850 233858.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

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TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
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for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale.
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Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or 70553. Evenings 75397. DY5 3JZ.

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400.
Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

SMALL VAN wanted. Good condition, Peugeot Partner or Vauxhall Combo type. 01902 713465. 07967 952821

spares & accessories

accessories & services

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spares/parts

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6 Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

MODERN 3-BED large Flat, Penn Fields, close to amenites. No DSS. £145pwk. 07449 545343.

ROOMS NETHERTON Refurbished with Parking. From £85 pwk Single, £95 pwk Double inc bills. No DSS. **07970 717139 or 07940 116130.**

SEDGLEY ONE BED self contained flat, suit single, mature person. No DSS/ref's required. 07948 182489.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

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WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME! For Your House CASH
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ANY CONDITION
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I CAN BEAT ANY PRICE!
I pay 100% of purchase price
Call now for the best price on your house
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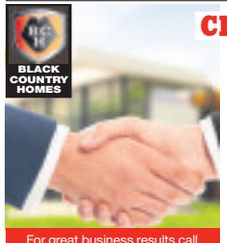
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk



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Black Country Homes
For great business results call 01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds Brought to you by Express & Star

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on 01902 713146
or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10 Personals

personal

ATTRACTIVE lonely Female seeking broadminded males within a 20 mile radius. 01902 489 181.

FEMALE 55
Looking to meet new female Friends in the W-ton area.
For nights our.
Must have own car.
Box Number C20739, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

Angels
The largest adult superstore in the Midlands
• Adult Toys • Sexy Lingerie
Gentlemen Now Open
Unit 5 Frederick Street, Walsall WS2 9NE
01922 635544

ADULT CINEMA
We're still here, we were the first, the best and we'll be here after all the rest!
The Foxy Lady
01902 490898
GENTLEMENS DANCE BAR OPENING SOON
01902 405522

GENTLEMAN
5ft 5in, 74, wishes to meet lady 50-75 for friendship possible relationship. Sandwell and surrounding areas.
Photo appreciated and returned.
Box Number P20742, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

LOOK
GENUINE, CARING, SLIM ATTRACTIVE MAN, 54
Would like to meet genuine lady, 40-60 for friendship and evenings out.
Box Number P20737, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

LADY 55
Non Smoker.
Looking for a sincere Gentleman in the W-ton, for companionship only and nights out.
Must have own car.
Genuine replies only.
Box Number C20738, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

SINGLE SLIM MALE
55, WLTM genuine slim lady 45 - 55, with similar interests, days out, walks in the countryside, Stourbridge, Brierley Hill, Oldbury areas.
Box Number C20734, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

WIDOW
Young at heart.
70's, honest, bubbly, solvent, GSOH.
Would like a Friend for meals / days out, also holidays in UK / abroad perhaps.
Wolverhampton, Dudley area.
Box Number P20736, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

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Mr Betteley of Stafford sold his Land Rover Discovery using the 6 night Repeat for Free Package

"Sold quickly which was great"
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Here's how to use your dating service ...

To ***Place*** your advert call:

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follow the simple instructions. You will also get ***£10 SMS CHAT CREDIT***

To ***Place*** your ad by text

Simply text **REG** followed by your first name, date of birth, area and your advert (max 155 characters) and send to **80098** **FREE** Standard Network rates apply.

YOU can now ***Date ONLINE*** or via your mobile just visit:

http://dating.expressandstar.com

To ***Reply*** to members call:

0906 500 3955

calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.

Have the adverts 6-digit box no written down and do ***key-it-in promptly*** when asked. Don't forget to leave contact details for replies.

To ***Reply*** by text:

Text... **REPLY26** (leave space) box number (leave space) and then enter your message & send to **80098** eg: **REPLY26** 123456 **hi get in touch...** then send to **80098** Successfully received messages cost £1.50 per SMS received (Max 160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap contact details. Messages may be moderated for your safety and security.

Been left a message? ***Pickup*** your replies on:

0906 500 3957

calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.

THE biggest UK on-line database of 17 million UK REAL users waiting to meet ***you.. visit..*** **http://dating.expressandstar.com**

Single Women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

KAREN, 46, witty female who loves to laugh, WLTM similar male to share interests, romance, cosy nights in and more. Pls call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426335**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673**

BROWN eyed female, 66, smoker, likes music, cinema, theatre, meals out WLTM male 67-74 for LTR. **Text only. Mailbox: 5806373**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**

LOUISE, 40s, youthful looking female looking for spontaneous male to put some love and lust back into my life. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426321**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399**

FARMERS daughter, 69, single, likes heavy horses, animals, meals out, GSOH, friendship only, 65-75. **Text only. Mailbox: 5799589**

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375**

CHRIS, 40, attractive slim sophisticated redhead, seeking male 30-50's to relax with and get to know. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426301**

TAMIKA, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 422365**

JAN, 46, lonely divorced romantic female, brown hair, green eyes, curvy feminine figure, employed, OHAC, WLTM attentive male for TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426255**

CARLY, 34yrs, attractive and discreet military wife seeks no strings fun with respectable gent. **Tel: 0906 515 3039 Box 424419**

PAM, 40, cuddly feminine young looking female, OHAC, financially secure, looking for fun times without complications with likeminded male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426253**

ATTRACTIVE well educated lady, mid 30's, solvent, professional, seeks discreet broad minded gent. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 425891**

MATURE lady 70s, various interests but a bit lonely, hoping to meet a gent to cheer me up, come on, we can have some fun together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426349**

SAMANTHA, 35yrs, attractive brunette with own business, seeks adventurous gent for casual relationship. **Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 425979**

GENTS, please call me if you are looking to meet a kind sincere lady for nights at the theatre, socialising etc. You can call or text me. I promise to reply, I'm very genuine. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426345**

RAPID MATCH
Simply tell us your age and location and we will match you immediately!
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0906 rate £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge 89990 cost £1.50 per msg. To STOP text stop to 89990. Service provided by JMediauk Ltd RH16 3EG For Help call 0207 720 7130

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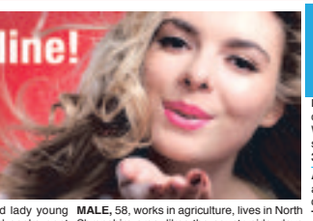

MELINDA, 52yrs, attractive and broad minded seeking chap any age for some fun. Couples also. **Text only Mailbox: 4131946**

JACKIE is 54yrs and an attractive easygoing brunette, she's hoping to meet a similar minded chap for some fun, dates, chats, text or call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426343**

JOSIE, sexy black lady, 52yrs seeks adult times with concerning gent, any age, discreet clean, womanly figure. **Text only Mailbox: 4028592**

ATTRACTIVE blonde lady, 54yrs, loyal, romantic and solvent hoping to meet a gent with GSOH for romance, sensual times and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426341**

ANNABELLE, sophisticated 28yrs hoping to meet older gent for adult fun, discreet, sincere, genuine advertiser. **Text only Mailbox: 4157105**

CAROLINE, attractive mature lady, various interests, hoping to meet a smart gent for socialising, perhaps leading to something more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426347**

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NO PROFILES TO FILL OUT
NO APPS TO DOWNLOAD
NO CREDIT CARDS
JUST STRAIGHT FORWARD AND SIMPLE DATING. IT'S NEVER BEEN EASIER!
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All messages received £1.50. Text STOP to 89990 to exit at any time Minimum 7 messages must be sent before contact details can be exchanged This service is not computer generated. Messages are responded to by realservice users. No meetings can be guaranteed. If arranging a meeting be sure to chose a public space and do not give personal details to people you have not met. Service provided by No Goats Ltd. Help: 0207 720 7130 or email: support@media.co.uk

SUE, 38, petite blonde, curvy size 8, outgoing, cultured, enjoys cosy night cuddles, seeking discreet loving male to make me feel special. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426219**

SARA, 43, educated independent attractive female, nervous about dating through advertising, so pls don't disappoint me by not replying. I promise I wont disappoint you! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426161**

JANINE 40yrs, very cute petite artistic female who has a real passion for life, WLTM similarly passionate male for tactile LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426125**

JANE, attractive and young looking 60 something lady, active, outgoing with interesting personality, hoping to meet a kind gent for occasional meetings. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425931**

CHLOE pretty single female 36yrs, dark hair/eyes, slim build, very lonely and looking for reliable discreet male for mutual companionship maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426079**

KELLY young attractive vivacious 48yr old lady, loves good food, cosy nights in/out, holidays etc, WLTM male for mutual companionship without ties. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425913**

BROWN eyed Brummie female, 66, smoker, likes music, cinema, theatre, meals out, WLTM male 67-74 for LTR. **Text only. Mailbox: 5780679**

KELLY young attractive vivacious 48yr old lady, loves good food, cosy nights in/out, holidays etc, WLTM male for mutual companionship without ties. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425913**

EILEEN mid 60s seeks gent 50s-60s for friendship, possibly much more. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425341**

DONNA naughty 40's, pretty, loves nights in, gym, theatre, seeks someone to make me laugh, give lots of cuddles and go on fun dates. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425867**

DAWN 33yr old female looking for companionship with understanding, non-jealous male 35-55yrs. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425849**

KAREN, 52, 5ft5, short browny/blond hair, green eyes, medium build, GSOH, loving, caring and kind, likes to do lots of things, likes a laugh, WLTM similar gent, hope to hear from you soon! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425917**

ANETTA, black cuddly lady seeks man who knows what a woman needs. I'm very friendly and have time for you. Please call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425933**

GILLY, slim petite lady, affectionate and loving, solvent with own home, hoping to meet gent, must be kind, looks unimportant. ACA/text answered. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425929**

MERRY widow seeks lovely lonely gent for companionship. Please call, we can have a chat and see how we get on. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425927**

AMANDA, slim blonde, 50s seeks discreet gent for special times, mutually beneficial to us both. Call now. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425327**

SARA, 43, educated, independent, attractive female, nervous about dating through advertising, so pls don't disappoint me by not replying. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425703**

BROWN eyed female, 66, smoker, likes music, cinema, theatre, meals out, WLTM male 67-74 for LTR. **Text only. Mailbox: 5501142**

JEAN, 40, 5ft slim, busty blonde, new to dating and fed up of going through the pub scene, WLTM down to earth male for adult company. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425671**

MICHELLE, 34, blonde blue-eyed happy female, loves heels and being feminine, OHAC, self sufficient, looking for male for long-term romance and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425669**

FEMALE, 66 yrs old, looks young, loves to laugh, n/s, who is genuine, caring and just wants to be loved again. **Text only. Mailbox: 5750819**

MARIE, very attractive curvy widow, longing for romance, seeking country-loving male with old-fashioned values for lots of TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425599**

SUE 38yrs enjoys most things, meals in/out, easygoing, broadminded, passionate, slightly feisty, looking for adult fun, call me if you're interested in spicing things up. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425587**

ROZ, 43, tactile, sensual, loves to dress up, and wear heels, seeks genuine caring male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425597**

KATHY 37, gorgeous mixed race single female, 5ft 8ins, slim, sensual, just looking for kind, trustworthy guy any age, looks or race. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425589**

JACKIE, 56yrs, attractive lady who is lots of fun seeks like-minded gent for nights in, days out and much much more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424491**

SUE, 60s lady, calling all gents who seek a mature solvent stylish lady, I can wine and dine you, you will have a nice time, call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424781**

JAN 41, fed up of sitting at home every weekend watching TV alone. Feel the same and looking for love? please contact me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425497**

STACY 28yr old gorgeous brunette with buxom figure, intelligent and sensual, WLTM genuine male to get to know for fun dates and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425457**

SARAH, 41, dizzy blonde, blue eyes, loves to dance seeks affectionate, hunky, fun male to make her laugh and brighten up her day. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425413**

YOUNG looking Indian female, 40, enjoys meals in/out, good company and conversation, looking for likeminded male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425493**

VIKKI 32yr old active female, confident, fit, loves night outs, looking for similar assertive male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425453**

SUE, attractive genuine lady, own home, loves to spoil a man, give me a call or text. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424673**

WANTED gent 50-76 for cosy nights in, good times, call or text me, you won't be sorry. I'm attractive and have lots to offer. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425339**

CAROL petite brunette, 38yrs, romantic, affectionate, outgoing, seeks similar sensual male for nice times together. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425395**

LADY, looking for a mature, caring, loving gentleman, 55-70, to enjoy the finer things of life with and to be my best friend. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425308**

JEAN, mature lady, genuine with many hobbies, slim, blonde and attractive. WLTM interesting gent with GSOH, must be cheerful, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424675**

KATHERINE, 28, tall, slim, dark, blue eyed female with many interests, OHAC, WLTM interesting male for dates, and more. Single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425287**

TRACY, 41, outgoing sun worshiper, OHAC, employed, looking for her Prince Charming to enjoy romantic holidays and good times together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425257**

SHARON 36yr old single mum looking for loving guy who will appreciate me and help repair my broken heart. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425283**

SHELLEY slim N/S 40's female who likes the simple things in life so no big gestures required, seeking loyal loving male for hopeful LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425253**

SANDRA, smart, sophisticated lady young looking 60s, genuine and kind seeks gent with GSOH, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424671**

HELEN, mid 50's naughty lady seeks some fun times with gent any age. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424493**

MARY, professional mature lady, loves life, very sociable and fun, seeks gent for good conversation and happy times. All calls and texts answered. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424775**

LINDA, 48yrs attractive brunette seeks gent for laughter, wining dining. Age unimportant. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425337**

LOVING lady, romantic and tactile seeks like-minded gent for special times, lets make each other feel special. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425325**

ATTRACTIVE Caribbean lady 59yrs, very jolly and fun seeking gent any age who must love good times. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425323**

ANDREA, 43, slim with long dark hair, blue eyes, loves to dance seeks romantic man to share intimate moments in or out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425221**

CAROL, mid 50s lady, young at heart, attractive and sexy (so I'm told)! Give me a call if you are a gent with GSOH. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424783**

THELMA, 59, slim, petite and Afro Caribbean, GSOH, trustworthy, honest and very caring, leave me your details if that sounds good to you! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425195**

Single Men

SLIM male, blue eyes, dark hair, seeking that special lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415697**

I enjoy the great outdoors with the dog, 36 years old, mature with a caring nature looking for a female age 28-48 for friendship, possible relationship. **Text only. Mailbox: 5803493**

CARING male, 6ft, blue eyes, slim, dark hair, honest, loving, down to earth, likes sport, music, cinema, meals out, seeking special lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409803**

MARK, single, 6ft, blue eyes, dark hair, lots of interests, sport, music, cinema, long walks, eating out, looking to meet that special lady. If that sounds like you please get in touch! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426461**

IAN, 5ft6, looking for somebody, 18-60, for general good fun times, days out, nights out, meals, sightseeing and visiting various parts of the country. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426437**

MALE 45 6ft, blue eyes, dark hair, slim, likes sports, cinema, meals out, seeking loving, caring female to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406737**

YOUNG 60, West Midlands male, 5ft8, grey hair, wear specs, GSOH, sexy Scorpion, broad minded, slim to medium build, varied interests, seeking a genuine, honest, sexy lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426137**

40 year old Hungarian male, 5ft8, slim, dark blond hair, blue eyes, WLTM a lady 30-45 to spend some time together for friendship. **Text only. Mailbox: 5800702**

SOLVENT gentleman, young 70s, loves life seeking a lady of any age to spoil and pamper, take on holidays, wine and dine. Genuine advertiser. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425935**

WILLIAM, young 56, would like some adult fun with a sexy lady, any age, wants and good time and discreet fun. **Text only. Mailbox: 5321154**

MALE, 60s, 5ft10, slim build, looking to meet female, for a mature adult relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426053**

MALE, 58, works in agriculture, lives in North Shropshire area, likes the countryside, days at the coast even in the winter, meals out, looking for loving, caring, country girl, 50s-60s. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426037**

SINGLE male, 31 years old, brown eyes, black hair, 6ft, seeks single slim athletic build lady similar age for fun, hopefully more. **Text only. Mailbox: 4765584**

JAY, attractive, 6ft2, single father, loves a laugh and a giggle, looking for a lady for evenings out, company and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424303**

CHRISTIAN, 57, 6ft, dark, likes walking, nice meals and socialising, looking for discreet times with a similar fun lady. If you are interested please contact me. I look forward to hearing from you. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425947**

STEVE, 59, sincere and genuine, likes pub meals, country walks and cinema, seeks Chinese, Tia, Black, Asian or Italian lady, looks unimportant but personality is, for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425831**

I am looking for a lady friend to enjoy my retirement with. I enjoy going out for meals and would like some company. **Text only. Mailbox: 5777872**

CALLING all ladies 40+ who would like to be wined, dined and romanced by attractive gent, 54 years please call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425943**

PROFESSIONAL gent, mid 60s loves holidays, wining dining, shows in London, seeking similar minded lady to romance. Own house car. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425941**

JOHN, mid sixties widower, cultured and interesting, solvent with own home. WLTM lady 55+ for genuine companionship. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425939**

GENUINE single gent, 55yrs, seeks friendship hopefully leading to true love with lady 35-55, looks unimportant. Please call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425937**

ADVENTUROUS 36-year-old male, slim, dark hair, has many interests, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235**

MARRIED businessman, mid fifties, seeks lady for discreet adult fun. Any age/looks unimportant. **Text only. Mailbox: 5534019**

MALE, 60, tall and slim, WLTM older female of larger build, any age, any status, for adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425807**

TALL male, 58, seeks larger woman, any age, for discreet fun, married or single. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425643**

GENUINE male, 37, friendly and easygoing, enjoys sport and keep fit, WLTM genuine female 25-45, for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420253**

TALL, dark, attractive male, 57, WLTM an attractive female for discreet daytime fun, 25-50. Can travel. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425759**

MALE 65, GSOH, seeks female for friendship and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418389**

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MALE, late 60s, medium build, 5ft10, n/s, car owner, likes meals out, holidays, walks, WLTM slim, attractive female who enjoys similar activities for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425757**

ATTRACTIVE Shrewsbury male, 50s, WLTM an attractive female, any age/status, for discreet daytime fun and excitement, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422801**

GARY, 46, 5ft10, blue eyes, GSOH, likes football, quiet nights in, nights out, cinema, walking, travelling, looking for a likewise woman, 35-50, bubbly and fun loving with a GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425441**

I'M Andy, 52, looking for a lady, 50-65, for long term relationship, so text me and lets see what happens. **Text only. Mailbox: 5396692**

MATURE male, 50, medium-build, varied interests, seeks true Christian female, 35-45, who enjoys evenings in and dining out, for friendship or possibly more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419283**

ATTRACTIVE male, 58, seeks adventurous female, 50-70, for close fun. Any status or size. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425535**

DAN 46, easy going chap WLTM a lady 40+ for an uncomplicated discreet friendship with on strings fun. Discretion guaranteed. **Text only. Mailbox: 5595608**

WELL made broad male, 5ft 10ins, medium build, looking for some adult fun with lovely sexy lady, possible LTR or friends with benefits. **Text only. Mailbox: 5321154**

MATURE male, 50, medium-build, varied interests, seeks true Christian female, 35-45, who enjoys evenings in and dining out, for friendship or possibly more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419283**

CHRISTIAN male 51, seeking Christian female, 35-45 for friendship, possibly more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423747**

MATURE male, 70s, tall, retired, recovering alcoholic, WLTM someone understanding, maybe in the same situation for friendship and mutual support. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425263**

YOUNG looking 63 year old male, GSOH, friendly, considerate, attractive, looking for a naughty female, any age/status, for adult fun and friendship. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425243**

IRISH gent, 66, GSOH, n/s, wishes to meet lady, North Birmingham area, for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425269**

JAMES, 59, 5ft11, average build, WLTM a Christian lady, 60-70, for companionship. Hope to hear from you. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425227**

Gay Singles

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SUSAN, cross dresser TV, lives in the Midlands, wishes to meet an gentleman, over 65 years of age, for regular meetings, LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426481**

JONNY, 24yrs, gay curious, not sure what to do, older men pls call me and help me understand. **Text only Mailbox: 4086857**

MATURE bi xd looking for a mature gay or bi male. Cannot accommodate. ATA. **Text only. Mailbox: 4758692**

MATURE bi male, looking for younger company, fun and good times. Can accommodate. Mid Wales. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425127**

BI male 57, seeks similar for discreet NSA fun. **Text only. Mailbox: 4624030**

PAUL, 50, Midlands area, looking to meet up for fun times, maybe relationship with a guy, 25-70, can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425487**

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PK's thanks as bumper turnout bids farewell

Karlsson and Freddie Lindgren on the podium at Monmore

PK on the shale during Sunday's final race meeting

A BUMPER crowd flocked to Monmore Green to bid a final farewell to Wolves speedway hero Peter Karlsson.

One of the club's all-time greats, Karlsson first rode for Wolves back in 1990. And the super Swede was given a fitting send-off on Sunday night.

Joined by good friend and current Wolves star Freddie Lindgren to make up the Wolves Legends, the duo – with the help of reserves Kyle Howarth and Max Clegg – came out on top against six other pairings including the Swedish Wolves Jacob Thorssell and Magnus Karlsson.

"It has been a pleasure. It has been fantastic," said Karlsson. "I am thrilled, very pleased the event went as well as it did – everybody who turned up seemed to enjoy it.

"All the riders put on a good show, I saw out a few and gave some of the reserves a go so it was a good night all-round."

Former World Champion Sam Ermolenko was also on hand on the evening which saw an auction take place in the main bar following the races, selling Karlsson kevlars, helmets and team race jackets.

Karlsson added: "It has been a life-changing experience for me here.

Involved

"I came here while I was pretty young and I lived here for a while and learnt so much.

"This club means a lot to me and I would like to thank everybody who came out for the event, I hope they had a good time.

"Wolverhampton, it feels like – and has been – a second home to me."

Legend Karlsson thanked all involved with Wolves speedway for the faith shown in him over the years as he said farewell to the club.

The 47-year-old Swede had his final meeting at Monmore Green on Sunday night in front of a jam-packed crowd.

His feats at the club include helping them to the 2009 Elite League title, despite suffering a broken collarbone two weeks prior to the play-off final.

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Joe Edwards

"I will really miss it but then again, I would like to think I managed to repay them a bit over the years."

He played a huge role last term, too, as they beat Belle Vue over two legs to win the Elite League, and also lifted the trophy in 2002. Having ridden for Wolves, on and off, since 1990, the club is very close to Karlsson's heart and he said: "I'm pleased the club kept so much faith in me.

"Over the years, we have shown that we are a big family.

"When I started here, it was Sam Ermolenko and Ronnie Correy and then it was me and my brother, Mikael and now it's Freddie Lindgren and Jacob Thorssell – we have all passed it on to each other, that family spirit."

When asked if one particular moment stands out or whether the whole experience is the stand-out, he said: "Very much so (a collective), it's hard to pinpoint one particular thing.

"Of course, with winning the title last year that is the one fresh in the memory and the one that everyone thinks about.

"We have had so many great moments with so many different riders – the likes of Sam (Ermolenko) and Freddie (Lindgren) – over the years that I have been here."

On the back of last season's Elite League triumph, Karlsson believes the side is strong enough to be up there again this term.

"Definitely, because the club has managed to put a fantastic team together," he said.

"Max Clegg came through, out of nowhere, to help us win the title last year and it's the same with Kyle Howarth.

"It would be great to see the club get back-to-back titles."

Having been such a big part of his life, Karlsson knows he will miss the club dearly but feels he has repaid the support, and now is the time for the young guns to make a real impression.

"I will really miss it but then again, I would like to think I managed to repay them a bit over the years," he added.

"The fans have been fantastic all along – they want to win, just like we do.

"There has been some bad times too, don't get me wrong – injuries and things like that – but you come through them and you win, and that's what we did.

"My message to the fans is thank you for all the support, it means a lot to me."

Fans were keen to thank Karlsson for his spectacular efforts.

Simon Lowbridge, from Coseley, said: "He's been a true great for this club for many years, and for British speedway as a whole. Hopefully there will be many more like him here."

Tony Caldicott – who had travelled from Lakeside to be at the meeting – added: "He's a legend in his own lifetime.

"He is probably the most consistent rider I have seen."

Results:

1 WOLVES LEGENDS 35: Fredrik Lindgren 22, Peter Karlsson 7, Kyle Howarth 6, Max Clegg 0.

2 MONMORE NICE GUYS 31: Niels-Kristian Iversen 21, Adam Skornicki 8, Kyle Howarth 2.

3 BMR ROCKETS 30: Scott Nicholls 15, Chris Harris 15.

4 DANISH PIRATES 29: Hans Andersen 18, Nicolai Klindt 11.

5 PK STARS 24: Sam Masters 19, David Howe 5.

6 SWEDISH WOLVES 21: Jacob Thorssell 17, Magnus Karlsson 2, Kyle Howarth 2.

7 US YOUNG GUNS 19: Ricky Wells 19, Broc Nicol 0.

Strong relay squad is Bahamas bound

BLACK COUNTRY athletes Jarryd Dunn and Matthew Hudson-Smith have been selected by Great Britain to take part in the World Relay Championships in the Bahamas next month.

Dunn, aged 25, from Brownhills, and Hudson-Smith, 22, from Lanesfield, Wolverhampton, have both been selected in a full-strength 4x400m squad for the event in Nassau. Theo Campbell, Martyn Rooney, Delano Williams and Rabah Yousif make up the 4x400m line-up.

The event, which takes place from April 22-23, is being looked upon as a key part of the build-up to the 2017 World Athletics Championships in London in August.

Performance director for British Athletics Neil Black said: "We are taking these championships incredibly seriously, something we have shown by selecting our best possible teams.

"I am looking for the team to grasp this opportunity and make a big statement of intent in The Bahamas."

He added: "Our primary focus is firmly on the 4x100m and the 4x400m competitions – the events where we intend to be challenging for medals at London 2017."

No baize of glory as Evans loses title bid

DUDLEY snooker ace Reanne Evans saw her bid for a 12th Women's World Snooker Championship ended by her old foe Ng On Yee.

Evans lost at the semi-final stage to the Hong Kong player, describing her 5-4 defeat as 'shocking' on social media.

Evans, aged 31, has won the world title 11 times, including for 10 consecutive years from 2005 until 2014. The 2015 title was claimed by Yee – who had beaten Evans in the last four. But Evans gained revenge in last year's final.

She had cruised through to the semi-finals after defeating Germany's Diana Schuler 4-0 in the last 16 before despatching Thailand's Siriphaporn Nuanthakhamjan 4-1 in the quarter-finals – the only frame she had dropped up to that point.

In her quarter-final, Yee had struggled past Waratthanun Sukritthanes – the conqueror of Netherton's Maria Catalano in the last 16 – to win 4-3.

But she edged past Evans in the semi.

After coming unstuck, Evans: "Well that performance was shocking – threw it away #disgusted #itsonlyagame."

Eggington handed European title shot

STOURBRIDGE boxing star Sam Eggington has been handed a shot at a European title. The 23-year-old welterweight will take on Ceferino Rodriguez for the Spaniard's EBU belt at The Barclaycard Arena on May 13.

Eggington is aiming to continue his ascent in the sport after notching up the most impressive victory of his career earlier this month with an eighth-round stoppage of two-weight world champion Paulie Malignaggi.

Already a mandatory challenger for the EBU belt, Eggington's clash with Ceferino was last week confirmed as chief support for a show topped by Birmingham fighter Kal Yafai's first defence of his WBA super flyweight crown.

Ceferino has suffered just one defeat in a 25-fight professional career and will pose a test for Eggington, who has reeled off three straight wins after losing his British title to Bradley Skeete last March.

"I had to learn a lot after Skeete," said Eggington, who rose through the ranks as an amateur at Warley Boxing Club. "I have real hunger back after losing to Skeete and this is massive for me as I never thought I'd reach this level."

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Sport

Farewell to a legend – PK rides off into sunset

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Net cast far and wide for opportunities

IT was another bumper weekend for athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club as they cast their blue net far and wide looking for opportunities to race.

Many again made the most of opportunities to put finishing touches to their marathon training plans or to take advantage of races in their own right.

Dave Norman and Mark Homer travelled to Shropshire for the Shrewsbury 10k, over a tough, hilly, city centre course. Norman came home in 50th place in 39.50, just ahead of Homer who came home in 40.05 to take 57th place.

A group of hoops took on the challenge of a couple of 20-mile races. Helen Tromans took part in the Gloucester 20, coming home in 86th place but claiming first in her age group in 2.26.55. In the Ashby 20, Stuart Perkins took 29th place in 2.08.39, James Wright was 46th in 2.12.21, Mark Judge was 160th in 2.25.40, Stephen Parr 281st in 2.37.00, Roger Beddard 536th in 2.53.13 and Ingrid Cain 968th in 3.22.45.

There were also plenty racing over the half marathon distance.

First off the blocks were a trio in Coventry with Karen Doy taking 842nd place in 1.49.17, Kathryn Sneyd was 1032nd in 1.53.21 and Samantha Hemming finished in 2.12.30 to take 2031st place.

In Stafford a large group conquered both the 13.1-mile distance and strong winds on course with Matt Biggs claiming 44th place in 1.23.16 and Darran Bishop 51st in 1.23.30.

Others taking part were Kieran Pitt, Dave Hickman, Richard Tonks, Tracy Alderson, John Sixsmith, Rory Campbell, Lisa Frowen, Alison Whitehouse, Jane Campbell, Tony Noke, Gina Collins, Keith Whitehouse, Kay Bonner and Charlotte Tonks.

Pedmore bowlers wide of mark in defence of total

Pedmore (83) lost to Hagley 'A' (88-2) by four wickets

PEDMORE got off to poor start in the Kinver Indoor Cricket League, losing both openers with 15 on the board in the first two overs.

Paul Taylor and John Herdman found it difficult to push score along, especially the bowling of John Lennon (2-18). Losing wickets at regular intervals Pedmore were bowled out in the 11th over.

In reply, Hagley 'A' started cautiously, although Mike Stead soon retired on 25. The first wicket went down at 77 and the game was ended by the 10th over.

Enville (82-1) beat Hagley 'B' (81-3) by five wickets

HAGLEY 'B' openers Steve Plant and Steve James made a very good start losing the first wicket at 61, but once out, the rest of the batsman struggled to keep up the good work.

Enville lost captain Jono Howells for three in the second over, but Matt Branch and Lee Passmore set about the bowling. Branch retired on 25 and Passmore scored the winning runs in the eighth over. Pedmore bowled 22 wides.

Keeper Fosters hospice relationships

Mark Naylor, Albion Academy goalkeeper coach, Frank Burns snr, hospice patient and Ben Foster

WEST Bromwich Albion goalkeeper Ben Foster gave patients and staff at Mary Stevens Hospice a welcome surprise when he popped in for a visit.

The Baggies and England stopper met patients to learn more about the work done by the charity and delighted staff by posing for pictures and signing autographs.

He took a tour of the hospice, in Hagley Road, Stourbridge, alongside Mark Naylor, Albion Academy goalkeeping coach, Andy Pountney and Andy Bullingham, chairman and vice-chairman of Stourbridge FC and Matt Webb, who co-founded the Stourbridge v WBA legends charity match which will be played at Stourbridge FC on April 2.

Foster donated a signed shirt towards an auction that will take place after the charity clash.

Stevan Jackson, chief executive officer Mary Stevens Hospice Group, said: "England goalkeeper Ben Foster caused quite a stir and he and the other visitors spent much time talking to patients and staff – irrespective of their footballing affiliations."

Naylor, charity match co-founder, said: "The hospice is a charity which Matt (Webb) and I have become incredibly close to."

The charity match takes place at the War Memorial Athletic Ground, in High Street, Amblecote with the gates opening at 1pm.

Contact Amanda Bowen, on amanda@mshfundraising.co.uk to get involved.

IT ALL COMES GOOD IN END

Stourbridge 3 Ilkeston 1

STOURBRIDGE moved level on points with second-placed Nantwich after finally coming good in the closing stages.

The Glassboys suffered a shock after struggling to break down Ilkeston's rearguard action on Monday night and Anthony Dwyer put the Derbyshire side in front on the stroke of half-time.

Gary Hackett's side included new signing Liam Slade following his switch from Halesowen while another new-boy, Kennedy Digie, was on the bench after joining from Kidderminster Harriers.

Stourbridge finally levelled when Matt Dodd was brought down by Dante Leverock and Luke Benbow stepped up to convert from the spot for his 26th league goal of the campaign.

Stourbridge struck again on 78 minutes when former Shrewsbury marksman Luke Rodgers, a second half substitute, turned home a Benbow cross at the near post.

Victory was completed on 83 minutes when Benbow turned a Rodgers free-kick against the post and defender Dan Preston prodded home.

Workington 3 Stourbridge 1

INJURY-HIT Stourbridge were plunged into deeper despair when central defender Chris Knight suffered an ankle problem while warming up to face Evo-Stik Premier promotion rivals Workington.

Glassboys boss Gary Hackett already had central defenders Jack Duggan, Stuart Pierpoint and Richard Sho-Silva sidelined through injury, so had to draft in youngster Jacob Wedderburn to partner Dan Preston in the heart of their defence.

Workington netted twice just before half-time to put the game out of the Glassboys reach. First, David Symington smashed home a 30-yard screamer, then two minutes into first half stoppage-time, Sam Joel fired past Matt Gould.

They added a third on 55 minutes, Joel flicking the ball past Gould before walking it into an empty net.

Luke Benbow clawed one back from the spot.

Two additional players have joined the Glassboys ranks, forward Josh Cooke, aged 20, from Sutton Coldfield Town and Myles Arnold, a midfielder previously with Loughborough Dynamo and Witton Albion.

Glassboys up for real ding-dong

Stourbridge FACup hero Matthew Gould gets his hands on the Ding Dong Derby Cup

CUP giantkillers Stourbridge are targeting another giant-killing act at the Simplyhealth Great Birmingham 10k.

The region's football clubs are limbering up to battle it out for Ding Dong Derby Cup glory over the 6.2-mile route on April 30.

Clubs of all sizes are being invited to enter running teams and compete for silverware.

FA Cup heroes Glassboys are aiming to steal the silverware from the grasp of Birmingham City, who won the inaugural Ding Dong Derby Cup last year. Any football club can compete by entering a team of between four and eight runners. The four fastest times posted by each team will be accumulated to determine who is the fittest and fastest club in the region. Stourbridge goalkeeper Matt Gould represented the club at the Ding Dong Derby Cup launch. The grandson of former Wolves and Albion striker Bobby, and son of Baggies goalkeeping coach Jonathan said: "We like being underdogs and wouldn't it be nice if a non-professional team beat all the big clubs?"

To enter a team, visit the Great Birmingham 10k Business Challenge page at www.greatrun.org/great-birmingham-10k/business-challenge

When filling in the 'name of company' box, type in the club's name followed by 'Ding Dong Derby Cup'. To enter as an individual go to: www.greatrun.org/great-birmingham-10k

Dwyer awaits home start for Heathens

CRADLEY launch their home National League campaign with one of their Perry Barr meetings next Wednesday.

The Heathens face King's Lynn in the first of what is expected to be three outings at Birmingham – with the rest at Monmore Green.

It's a throwback to the launch of the new era in 2010 when they shared venues – and this season they have a combination of new and familiar faces.

Connor Dwyer

Tom Perry, Dan Greenwood and Luke Harris all return – but for Connor Dwyer it means a home debut in Heathens colours. "It's a really good opportunity for me to be at Cradley," Dwyer said. "I'm really looking forward to it and I just want to make the most out of the chance.

"It's a good club, and I'm going into this season with the same sort of mindset I've had every year. I'll always try to improve my average and just keep progressing and moving in the right direction. I've done a lot of laps at Wolverhampton, probably more than I did at Coventry last year, so I'm really excited to have that as my home track."

Dwyer linked up with his new teammates for the first time at their season launch night earlier this month and says they are already developing a strong team spirit.

He added: "Everyone gets on really well already. I've known Tom (Perry) and Dan (Greenwood) for a long time and they are two great lads who I'm pleased to be riding with. There is already a good team spirit developing."

Bragoli gives Yeltz breathing space

Frickley 0 Halesowen 1

HALESOWEN secured a massive three points in their quest to avoid being dragged into the bottom three of the Evo-Stik Premier.

The Yeltz were level on points with Frickley at the start of play and Danny Bragoli's header on 66 minutes means they now have some breathing space, having played fewer games than most of their rivals at the bottom.

Frickley hit the bar on 56 minutes but Bragoli headed in from a corner 10 minutes later.

Monday's game at Hednesford was called off due to a waterlogged pitch.

★★★

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, March 23, 2017

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4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

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2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

AMERICAN COCKER Spaniel, 1 dogs, very loving and cute, ready to go now, vaccinated, microchipped, wormed, Mom and Dad can be seen. £450. 07974 749908.

WANTED Nice friendly dog, for company for myself and Retriever. Prefer Lab/Retriever or 1st X. Good home assured. 07970 485491.

5 Business & Farming

business directory

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7 Jobs

courses

building & construction

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8 Motoring

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Further information and an application form are available on the school website (www.kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk). The completed form should be emailed or posted to the school by 10.00am on Tuesday 28th March. We intend to interview during the week beginning Monday 3rd April.

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£4,500
01562 754127.

LOW MILEAGE
RENAULT CLIO 1.2
Silver, 3dr, 2007, 28,000 miles, fsh, 12 months MoT, excellent condition.
£2,700.
07376 727285.

LOW MILEAGE
RENUALT CLIO INITIALE 1.6 VVT 111
2006. 5 door. Hatchback. Champagne. Leather interior. Alloys. Tinted windows. Climate control. Cruise/ Speed control. E/W, E/M, CD radio. 36,000 miles. MoT'd. FSH. Rare model.
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cars under £1500

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6 Property

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10 Personals

personal

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GENTLEMAN
5ft 5in, 74, wishes to meet lady 50-75 for friendship possible relationship. Sandwell and surrounding areas.
Photo appreciated and returned.
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LOOK
GENUINE, CARING, SLIM ATTRACTIVE MAN, 54
Would like to meet genuine lady, 40-60 for friendship and evenings out.
Box Number P20737, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

LADY 55
Non Smoker.
Looking for a sincere Gentleman in the W-ton, for companionship only and nights out.
Must have own car.
Genuine replies only.
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SINGLE SLIM MALE
55, WLTM genuine slim lady 45 - 55, with similar interests, days out, walks in the countryside, Stourbridge, Brierley Hill, Oldbury areas.
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WIDOW
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70's, honest, bubbly, solvent, GSOH.
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Wolverhampton, Dudley area.
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Simply text **REG** followed by your first name, date of birth, area and your advert (max 155 characters) and send to **80098** **FREE** Standard Network rates apply.

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Have the adverts 6-digit box no written down and do ***key-it-in promptly*** when asked. Don't forget to leave contact details for replies.

To ***Reply*** by text:

Text... **REPLY26** (leave space) box number (leave space) and then enter your message & send to **80098** eg: **REPLY26** 123456 **hi get in touch...** then send to **80098** Successfully received messages cost £1.50 per SMS received (Max 160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap contact details. Messages may be moderated for your safety and security.

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Single Women

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KAREN, 46, witty female who loves to laugh, WLTM similar male to share interests, romance, cosy nights in and more. Pls call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426335**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673**

BROWN eyed female, 66, smoker, likes music, cinema, theatre, meals out WLTM male 67-74 for LTR. **Text only. Mailbox: 5806373**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**

LOUISE, 40s, youthful looking female looking for spontaneous male to put some love and lust back into my life. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426321**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399**

FARMERS daughter, 69, single, likes heavy horses, animals, meals out, GSOH, friendship only, 65-75. **Text only. Mailbox: 5799589**

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375**

CHRIS, 40, attractive slim sophisticated redhead, seeking male 30-50's to relax with and get to know. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426301**

TAMIKA, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 422365**

JAN, 46, lonely divorced romantic female, brown hair, green eyes, curvy feminine figure, employed, OHAC, WLTM attentive male for TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426255**

CARLY, 34yrs, attractive and discreet military wife seeks no strings fun with respectable gent. **Tel: 0906 515 3039 Box 424419**

PAM, 40, cuddly feminine young looking female, OHAC, financially secure, looking for fun times without complications with likeminded male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426253**

ATTRACTIVE well educated lady, mid 30's, solvent, professional, seeks discreet broad minded gent. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 425891**

MATURE lady 70s, various interests but a bit lonely, hoping to meet a gent to cheer me up, come on, we can have some fun together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426349**

SAMANTHA, 35yrs, attractive brunette with own business, seeks adventurous gent for casual relationship. **Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 425979**

GENTS, please call me if you are looking to meet a kind sincere lady for nights at the theatre, socialising etc. You can call or text me. I promise to reply, I'm very genuine. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426345**

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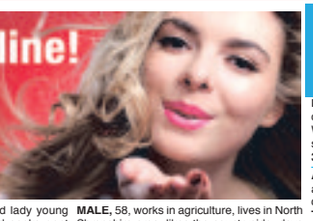

MELINDA, 52yrs, attractive and broad minded seeking chap any age for some fun. Couples also. **Text only Mailbox: 4131946**

JACKIE is 54yrs and an attractive easygoing brunette, she's hoping to meet a similar minded chap for some fun, dates, chats, text or call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426343**

JOSIE, sexy black lady, 52yrs seeks adult times with concerning gent, any age, discreet clean, womanly figure. **Text only Mailbox: 4028592**

ATTRACTIVE blonde lady, 54yrs, loyal, romantic and solvent hoping to meet a gent with GSOH for romance, sensual times and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426341**

ANNABELLE, sophisticated 28yrs hoping to meet older gent for adult fun, discreet, sincere, genuine advertiser. **Text only Mailbox: 4157105**

CAROLINE, attractive mature lady, various interests, hoping to meet a smart gent for socialising, perhaps leading to something more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426347**

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SUE, 38, petite blonde, curvy size 8, outgoing, cultured, enjoys cosy night cuddles, seeking discreet loving male to make me feel special. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426219**

SARA, 43, educated independent attractive female, nervous about dating through advertising, so pls don't disappoint me by not replying. I promise I wont disappoint you! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426161**

JANINE 40yrs, very cute petite artistic female who has a real passion for life, WLTM similarly passionate male for tactile LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426125**

JANE, attractive and young looking 60 something lady, active, outgoing with interesting personality, hoping to meet a kind gent for occasional meetings. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425931**

CHLOE pretty single female 36yrs, dark hair/eyes, slim build, very lonely and looking for reliable discreet male for mutual companionship maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426079**

KELLY young attractive vivacious 48yr old lady, loves good food, cosy nights in/out, holidays etc, WLTM male for mutual companionship without ties. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425913**

BROWN eyed Brummie female, 66, smoker, likes music, cinema, theatre, meals out, WLTM male 67-74 for LTR. **Text only. Mailbox: 5780679**

KELLY young attractive vivacious 48yr old lady, loves good food, cosy nights in/out, holidays etc, WLTM male for mutual companionship without ties. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425913**

EILEEN mid 60s seeks gent 50s-60s for friendship, possibly much more. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425341**

DONNA naughty 40's, pretty, loves nights in, gym, theatre, seeks someone to make me laugh, give lots of cuddles and go on fun dates. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425867**

DAWN 33yr old female looking for companionship with understanding, non-jealous male 35-55yrs. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425849**

KAREN, 52, 5ft5, short browny/blond hair, green eyes, medium build, GSOH, loving, caring and kind, likes to do lots of things, likes a laugh, WLTM similar gent, hope to hear from you soon! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425917**

ANETTA, black cuddly lady seeks man who knows what a woman needs. I'm very friendly and have time for you. Please call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425933**

GILLY, slim petite lady, affectionate and loving, solvent with own home, hoping to meet gent, must be kind, looks unimportant. ACA/text answered. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425929**

MERRY widow seeks lovely lonely gent for companionship. Please call, we can have a chat and see how we get on. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425927**

AMANDA, slim blonde, 50s seeks discreet gent for special times, mutually beneficial to us both. Call now. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425327**

SARA, 43, educated, independent, attractive female, nervous about dating through advertising, so pls don't disappoint me by not replying. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425703**

BROWN eyed female, 66, smoker, likes music, cinema, theatre, meals out, WLTM male 67-74 for LTR. **Text only. Mailbox: 5501142**

JEAN, 40, 5ft slim, busty blonde, new to dating and fed up of going through the pub scene, WLTM down to earth male for adult company. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425671**

MICHELLE, 34, blonde blue-eyed happy female, loves heels and being feminine, OHAC, self sufficient, looking for male for long-term romance and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425669**

FEMALE, 66 yrs old, looks young, loves to laugh, n/s, who is genuine, caring and just wants to be loved again. **Text only. Mailbox: 5750819**

MARIE, very attractive curvy widow, longing for romance, seeking country-loving male with old-fashioned values for lots of TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425599**

SUE 38yrs enjoys most things, meals in/out, easygoing, broadminded, passionate, slightly feisty, looking for adult fun, call me if you're interested in spicing things up. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425587**

ROZ, 43, tactile, sensual, loves to dress up, and wear heels, seeks genuine caring male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425597**

KATHY 37, gorgeous mixed race single female, 5ft 8ins, slim, sensual, just looking for kind, trustworthy guy any age, looks or race. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425589**

JACKIE, 56yrs, attractive lady who is lots of fun seeks like-minded gent for nights in, days out and much much more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424491**

SUE, 60s lady, calling all gents who seek a mature solvent stylish lady, I can wine and dine you, you will have a nice time, call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424781**

JAN 41, fed up of sitting at home every weekend watching TV alone. Feel the same and looking for love? please contact me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425497**

STACY 28yr old gorgeous brunette with buxom figure, intelligent and sensual, WLTM genuine male to get to know for fun dates and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425457**

SARAH, 41, dizzy blonde, blue eyes, loves to dance seeks affectionate, hunky, fun male to make her laugh and brighten up her day. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425413**

YOUNG looking Indian female, 40, enjoys meals in/out, good company and conversation, looking for likeminded male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425493**

VIKKI 32yr old active female, confident, fit, loves night outs, looking for similar assertive male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425453**

SUE, attractive genuine lady, own home, loves to spoil a man, give me a call or text. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424673**

WANTED gent 50-76 for cosy nights in, good times, call or text me, you won't be sorry. I'm attractive and have lots to offer. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425339**

CAROL petite brunette, 38yrs, romantic, affectionate, outgoing, seeks similar sensual male for nice times together. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425395**

LADY, looking for a mature, caring, loving gentleman, 55-70, to enjoy the finer things of life with and to be my best friend. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425309**

JEAN, mature lady, genuine with many hobbies, slim, blonde and attractive. WLTM interesting gent with GSOH, must be cheerful, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424675**

KATHERINE, 28, tall, slim, dark, blue eyed female with many interests, OHAC, WLTM interesting male for dates, and more. Single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425287**

TRACY, 41, outgoing sun worshiper, OHAC, employed, looking for her Prince Charming to enjoy romantic holidays and good times together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425257**

SHARON 36yr old single mum looking for loving guy who will appreciate me and help repair my broken heart. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425283**

SHELLEY slim N/S 40's female who likes the simple things in life so no big gestures required, seeking loyal loving male for hopeful LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425253**

SANDRA, smart, sophisticated lady young looking 60s, genuine and kind seeks gent with GSOH, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424671**

HELEN, mid 50's naughty lady seeks some fun times with gent any age. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424493**

MARY, professional mature lady, loves life, very sociable and fun, seeks gent for good conversation and happy times. All calls and texts answered. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424775**

LINDA, 48yrs attractive brunette seeks gent for laughter, wining dining. Age unimportant. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425337**

LOVING lady, romantic and tactile seeks like-minded gent for special times, lets make each other feel special. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425325**

ATTRACTIVE Caribbean lady 59yrs, very jolly and fun seeking gent any age who must love good times. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425323**

ANDREA, 43, slim with long dark hair, blue eyes, loves to dance seeks romantic man to share intimate moments in or out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425221**

CAROL, mid 50s lady, young at heart, attractive and sexy (so I'm told)! Give me a call if you are a gent with GSOH. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424783**

THELMA, 59, slim, petite and Afro Caribbean, GSOH, trustworthy, honest and very caring, leave me your details if that sounds good to you! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425195**

Single Men

SLIM male, blue eyes, dark hair, seeking that special lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415697**

I enjoy the great outdoors with the dog, 36 years old, mature with a caring nature looking for a female age 28-48 for friendship, possible relationship. **Text only. Mailbox: 5803493**

CARING male, 6ft, blue eyes, slim, dark hair, honest, loving, down to earth, likes sport, music, cinema, meals out, seeking special lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409803**

MARK, single, 6ft, blue eyes, dark hair, lots of interests, sport, music, cinema, long walks, eating out, looking to meet that special lady. If that sounds like you please get in touch! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426461**

IAN, 5ft6, looking for somebody, 18-60, for general good fun times, days out, nights out, meals, sightseeing and visiting various parts of the country. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426437**

MALE 45 6ft, blue eyes, dark hair, slim, likes sports, cinema, meals out, seeking loving, caring female to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406737**

YOUNG 60, West Midlands male, 5ft8, grey hair, wear specs, GSOH, sexy Scorpion, broad minded, slim to medium build, varied interests, seeking a genuine, honest, sexy lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426137**

40 year old Hungarian male, 5ft8, slim, dark blond hair, blue eyes, WLTM a lady 30-45 to spend some time together for friendship. **Text only. Mailbox: 5800702**

SOLVENT gentleman, young 70s, loves life seeking a lady of any age to spoil and pamper, take on holidays, wine and dine. Genuine advertiser. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425935**

WILLIAM, young 56, would like some adult fun with a sexy lady, any age, wants and good time and discreet fun. **Text only. Mailbox: 5321154**

MALE, 60s, 5ft10, slim build, looking to meet female, for a mature adult relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426053**

MALE, 58, works in agriculture, lives in North Shropshire area, likes the countryside, days at the coast even in the winter, meals out, looking for loving, caring, country girl, 50s-60s. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426037**

SINGLE male, 31 years old, brown eyes, black hair, 6ft, seeks single slim athletic build lady similar age for fun, hopefully more. **Text only. Mailbox: 4765584**

JAY, attractive, 6ft2, single father, loves a laugh and a giggle, looking for a lady for evenings out, company and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424303**

CHRISTIAN, 57, 6ft, dark, likes walking, nice meals and socialising, looking for discreet times with a similar fun lady. If you are interested please contact me. I look forward to hearing from you. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425947**

STEVE, 59, sincere and genuine, likes pub meals, country walks and cinema, seeks Chinese, Tia, Black, Asian or Italian lady, looks unimportant but personality is, for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425831**

I am looking for a lady friend to enjoy my retirement with. I enjoy going out for meals and would like some company. **Text only. Mailbox: 5777872**

CALLING all ladies 40+ who would like to be wined, dined and romanced by attractive gent, 54 years please call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425943**

PROFESSIONAL gent, mid 60s loves holidays, wining dining, shows in London, seeking similar minded lady to romance. Own house car. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425941**

JOHN, mid sixties widower, cultured and interesting, solvent with own home. WLTM lady 55+ for genuine companionship. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425939**

GENUINE single gent, 55yrs, seeks friendship hopefully leading to true love with lady 35-55, looks unimportant. Please call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425937**

ADVENTUROUS 36-year-old male, slim, dark hair, has many interests, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235**

MARRIED businessman, mid fifties, seeks lady for discreet adult fun. Any age/looks unimportant. **Text only. Mailbox: 5534019**

MALE, 60, tall and slim, WLTM older female of larger build, any age, any status, for adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425807**

TALL male, 58, seeks larger woman, any age, for discreet fun, married or single. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425643**

GENUINE male, 37, friendly and easygoing, enjoys sport and keep fit, WLTM genuine female 25-45, for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420253**

TALL, dark, attractive male, 57, WLTM an attractive female for discreet daytime fun, 25-50. Can travel. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425759**

MALE 65, GSOH, seeks female for friendship and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418389**

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MALE, late 60s, medium build, 5ft10, n/s, car owner, likes meals out, holidays, walks, WLTM slim, attractive female who enjoys similar activities for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425757**

ATTRACTIVE Shrewsbury male, 50s, WLTM an attractive female, any age/status, for discreet daytime fun and excitement, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422801**

GARY, 46, 5ft10, blue eyes, GSOH, likes football, quiet nights in, nights out, cinema, walking, travelling, looking for a likewise woman, 35-50, bubbly and fun loving with a GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425441**

I'M Andy, 52, looking for a lady, 50-65, for long term relationship, so text me and lets see what happens. **Text only. Mailbox: 5396692**

MATURE male, 50, medium-build, varied interests, seeks true Christian female, 35-45, who enjoys evenings in and dining out, for friendship or possibly more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419283**

ATTRACTIVE male, 58, seeks adventurous female, 50-70, for close fun. Any status or size. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425535**

DAN 46, easy going chap WLTM a lady 40+ for an uncomplicated discreet friendship with on strings fun. Discretion guaranteed. **Text only. Mailbox: 5595608**

WELL made broad male, 5ft 10ins, medium build, looking for some adult fun with lovely sexy lady, possible LTR or friends with benefits. **Text only. Mailbox: 5321154**

MATURE male, 50, medium-build, varied interests, seeks true Christian female, 35-45, who enjoys evenings in and dining out, for friendship or possibly more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419283**

CHRISTIAN male 51, seeking Christian female, 35-45 for friendship, possibly more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423747**

MATURE male, 70s, tall, retired, recovering alcoholic, WLTM someone understanding, maybe in the same situation for friendship and mutual support. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425263**

YOUNG looking 63 year old male, GSOH, friendly, considerate, attractive, looking for a naughty female, any age/status, for adult fun and friendship. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425243**

IRISH gent, 66, GSOH, n/s, wishes to meet lady, North Birmingham area, for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425269**

JAMES, 59, 5ft11, average build, WLTM a Christian lady, 60-70, for companionship. Hope to hear from you. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425227**

Gay Singles

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SUSAN, cross dresser TV, lives in the Midlands, wishes to meet an gentleman, over 65 years of age, for regular meetings, LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426481**

JONNY, 24yrs, gay curious, not sure what to do, older men pls call me and help me understand. **Text only Mailbox: 4086857**

MATURE bi xd looking for a mature gay or bi male. Cannot accommodate. ATA. **Text only. Mailbox: 4758692**

MATURE bi male, looking for younger company, fun and good times. Can accommodate. Mid Wales. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425127**

BI male 57, seeks similar for discreet NSA fun. **Text only. Mailbox: 4624030**

PAUL, 50, Midlands area, looking to meet up for fun times, maybe relationship with a guy, 25-70, can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425487**

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